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HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, April 16, 1874.

SENATE.

Mr. Rutan offered an act to authorize the Auditor General and State Treasurer to settle all outstanding claims for work done and material furnished for the Constitutional Convention. Also, an act authorizing the Governor to appoint a commission of seven to report amendments to the new Constitution to the next Legislature.

Mr. Anderson reported, as committed, the act to repeal all laws requiring school boards to maintain separate schools for the exclusive tuition of children of color.

The new Constitution requires a two-third vote of Senators elected (22) to confirm any nominations made by the Governor, and when several nominations came before the Senate this morning, the Democrats refused to vote on the nominations. Consequently the nominations were not confirmed.

Mr. Rutan called up the nomination of Judges, and said the five days required by the rule for nominations to lie on the table, had elapsed, and it was very important that their nominations should be confirmed. In Adams, Lebanon, Mercer and other districts, courts were fixed for next week, and unless these nominations were confirmed there would be no one to preside. When the nominations were sent in, he had promptly moved the confirmation of Mr. Orvis, a Democrat, and the Republicans had all voted for him. This exception was made because he had been brought in the minority and because he was a member of the Legislature. Having secured his confirmation, it was reported the Democratic Senators had held a caucus and passed a resolution pledging their party to oppose all confirmations, unless the Republicans would make some concessions on the Appurtenant bill. Further than this, no objection to the gentlemen appointed, but demand certain political advantages as their price for voting to confirm them. This, the majority declined to accede to. Under the Constitution, all appointments made by the Governor have to be confirmed by two-thirds of the Senate, and under this requirement twelve Democratic Senators can reject all nominations. On the question of confirmation, Senators sit as judges, and the only question should be as to the fitness of the nominee. This was the view taken by Republican Senators, and, believing this, they held no caucus, and would not in any case. The effort to force concessions would prove a failure, and in the end may result disastrously to the minority. The Appurtenant bill passed by the Senate was the fairest ever passed by any political party, and so admitted to be by political foes. He warned the minority that the course marked out would accomplish their purpose, and would arouse the people of the Commonwealth against their party and the leaders, who are responsible for the position taken.

Senator Wallace said he declined to be interrogated, or to answer the Senator from Beaver as to what their party had done in caucus.

At the afternoon session, a communication from the Governor was read, announcing the reappointment of Judges Additional to Bridges and President judges rejected this morning for want of a two-third vote. Laid over, under the rules, for five days.

HOUSE.

The House had a lengthy calendar of bills on second reading before it, but it made poor progress.

Before considering the same, Mr. Newmyer introduced an act validating assessments heretofore made for grading, paving or curbing streets, and one directing the manner of transfer of the franchises of turnpike corporations.

Mr. Young read and had referred an act relative to indigent insane.

The Brockway Free Pass bill came upand was amended by Mr. Webb, so as not to apply to any railroad which has not accepted the provisions of the new Constitution.

The bill created considerable debate, but passed as amended by a vote of 80 to 11. There is a bill in the Senate defining the manner of acceptation of the new Constitution by railroad companies.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, April 17, 1874.

SENATE.

The Senate passed a number of bills up to second reading, and adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House resumed the consideration of bills on first reading not reached on Tuesday.

Things went along very quietly until about twelve o'clock, when Mr. Toner, of Westmoreland, moved to consider House bill No. 238, which allows distillers and brewers to sell liquors by the quantity. The provisions of the bill virtually repeals the Local Option law. This call had the effect of waking the House from its lethargy. There was made an unanimous call on the Chair, some one way and some another, but all anxious to be heard.

Mr. Webb got in his motion to indefinitely postpone, which was lost—47 to 40. Next Wednesday was fixed as the day for its consideration.

The afternoon session was spent in reading bills in place and receiving reports from committees.

At five o'clock the House adjourned until Monday afternoon at three o'clock.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, April 20, 1874.

SENATE.

The Senate, to-night, was occupied in considering bills on first and second reading. Among those that passed first reading, were Mr. Graham's bill abolishing separate colored schools, and Mr. Rutan's, creating a commission to propose amendments to the Constitution.

Mr. Humphreys offered a number of amendments to the act to erect a commission for the purpose of examining and providing an uniformity of text-books. The most important one provides for the purchase of the copyright of such text books as are agreed upon for the use of the State, and to prevent the same being made the subject to use by all publishers desiring it, subject to such regulations and limitations as the commission may prescribe. In the event of the non-purchase of the copyright, it shall be unlawful for publishers to collect a greater sum per book than set forth to the commission for the completion of the series, without first obtaining the consent of the commission. Laid over on second reading.

The making an appropriation to the Allegheny County Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons, passed second reading.

The Judicial Salary bill was amended on second reading, to make the salaries of judges of Philadelphia seven thousand dollars, of Allegheny six thousand dollars, present judges and additional law judges in other counties five thousand dollars, and supreme judges eight thousand dollars.

HOUSE.

In the House, Mr. Brockway introduced a bill to carry out the provisions of article 3, section 1, of the Constitution, relative to contracts for reporting and printing legislative journals.

Mr. Wood, Exempting mutual life and fire insurance companies from the act establishing an Insurance Department.

The bill appropriating two thousand six hundred dollars, in addition to the amount already appropriated (one thousand dollars), for payment of the expenses of the Cassville investigation, passed first reading.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, April 15, 1874.

There is trouble in the Democratic camp. The young Democrats, who are restive under the lead of Wallace, are determined to take the lead themselves and to throw the old stagers overboard. At the Democratic Senatorial caucus held to-day, Ermentrout, Bechtel and Co. carried by a majority of one a resolution that the Democratic Senators should vote solid against the confirmation of any of the Governor's nominations for judges. Wallace, McSherry and others strongly resisted this suicidal policy, but were overruled, and the rule or ruin tactics have now full sway.

The idea is that they can, by this course, compel us to give them a better Appportionment bill; but they will be terribly disappointed. The appportionment bill will not be altered in such them; and if they choose to leave the judges without confirmation, or reject them, they must take the responsibility.

As far as the Republicans are concerned, they would much prefer to see the Democracy led by Ermentrout and Beehtel than by Wallace, Dill and McSherry. If they choose to cut each other's throats, we have no right to complain. Any internal dissensions in the Democratic ranks must hurt that party and cannot hurt us. All that we have got to say is, "Gentlemen, go ahead! You are master of your policy and keep it up as long as you like."

Last week, when the nomination of Mr. Orvis, a Democrat, as judge, was pending, the Democratic caucus resolved, by a majority of one, to let the nomination be confirmed, but as soon as they get their Democratic judge confirmed, they turn around and resolve not to confirm the Republican nominees for similar places. There is Democratic magnanimity for you! The Democrats voted for a man for Orvis, and the Democrats were willing to accept the place from their hands; but when it comes to confirming Republicans, they return the compliment by saying, No! It is characteristic and not at all surprising. Under such leading, nothing better could be expected.

From present appearances, there is likely to be less unanimity in the Democratic party this year than heretofore. The factional feeling is fairly ablaze. Ermentrout is evidently looking slew wants to be United States Senator; so does Hiester Clymer, and both want to crush out Wallace as a preliminary to their chances of success. He is the Mordecai to their Haman.

Of course, there would be no sense in such a fight if the Democrats did not calculate on carrying the next Legislature. They take that for granted, just as they have done at any time for fifteen years past, and have just as little reason to expect it now, as heretofore. But it is all part of the fun of the Democratic programme that they are bound to succeed; and they always go to work to fight one another as if they were sure of a party triumph. In the meantime, it keeps them so busy to whip one another that, when it comes to whipping us, their strength is exhausted and their chance gone, if it ever existed. In the present case, it does not exist a tall; and the factions are abundantly welcome to go on and exhaust their fight to the mutual extinction of each other, if that be possible.

The House Committee of Ways and Means reported a resolution for final adjournment on May 15th. Motions to make it May 8th, and May 7th, were voted down, and the resolution was passed. In the Senate it was referred to the Finance Committee, and I hope they will report it back for May 7th.

It was noticeable in the House that the Democratic members led off in the effort for the latest day. They vote almost as one man against an early adjournment. Their ridiculous fancy is that it will make our party odious, forgetting that it is their own act as well as ours. If they want to make a good record on that point, they are taking the wrong way to do it. Men are not allowed, either in law or politics, to take advantage of their own wrong.

As predicted yesterday, the vote on the bill for admitting insane criminals into the lunatic hospitals, was to-day reconsidered, and the bill passed. The vote on reconsideration was 20 to 8, and for the bill, 17 to 13. The following bills also passed finally, and were sent to the House:

Relating to the accounts of the several county officers of the Commonwealth.

A further supplement to an act relating to sinks in townships and partitions.

An act to fix the salaries of county officers in counties containing over one hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants.

The bill to increase the homestead exemption from $300 to $600, and otherwise amending the exemption law, especially so as to prevent waiver of exemption, was strongly fought, but passed second reading.

A bill to cure the effect of defective acknowledgments, heretofore made, was unanimously rejected; but Mr. McClure moved a reconsideration, and under a pledge to prepare an amendment to it that would limit it to specific cases, it was reconsidered and postponed.

The bill to regulate the enactment of ordinances in cities was indefinitely postponed, the Senate bill, now in the House, regulating cities, covering its provisions completely.

The bill to punish as a misdemeanor the concealment, removal and disposition of goods and chattels in which Commonwealth is held or delivered under or subject to a contract or lease, bailment or conditional sale, or the possession of such goods or chattels, knowing them to be subject to any such contract, was postponed indefinitely, and attention to reconsider the vote by which it was postponed indefinitely was unanimously negatived. So *that* disposed finally and decisively.

At the afternoon session of the Senate, the bill to regulate the organization and management of banking corporations, came up on third reading. When this bill was on second reading, Mr. Clayton offered a section as an amendment, prohibiting all banks organized under this bill from paying interest on deposits. Mr. White now moved to go into Committee of the Whole to strike out this section. Mr. Playford offered a substitute, adding to the section a provision that the note-issuing privilege should be conferred by the Governor to appoint a Commission of seven to report to the next Legislature amendments to the Constitution, and at the afternoon session reported the bill back as committed. This ridiculously abortive method has just been tried, and failed, in New Jersey and New York; but Pennsylvania cannot profit by the experience of others. She must go through the mill herself before she can learn the planest of all plain lessons—that Constitutional Commissions are nuisances and abortions, worse even than Constitutional Conventions, if such a thing can be.

Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny, also read in place a bill to repeal all laws rendering special schools necessary for colored children, and, at the afternoon session, reported it back from the Education Committee, so as to give it place on next week's calendar.

At the afternoon session of the Senate the bill providing a method for erecting new counties came up on second reading, and after amending the first section so as to make the Secretary of Commonwealth, Secretary of Internal Affairs and Auditor General, a Board to appoint commissioners for superintending the work of erecting new counties, and requiring that the petition for a new county shall be signed by two thousand qualified voters, the section was voted down, 13 to 15, and the bill fell. There will be a reconsideration, probably.

The Insurance bill also came up on second reading; but in order to get it into proper shape, it was recommitted to the Committee on Corporations.

The bill from the House, relative to entailments, came up in order on second reading, and on a standing vote, 9 to 5, the first section fell; but the yeas and nays being called, a motion was made to postpone it, and it was postponed accordingly. It seems to have but a poor chance of passage.

The following nominations made by the Governor were confirmed unanimously:

S. S. Olds, to be a Commissioner of Deeds, for the term of five years, to reside at Lansing, Michigan.

Dr. Wm. J. McKnight, of Brookville, Jefferson county, to be Coroner of that county.

Notaries Public—M. H. Horseman and Wm. A. Herring, Pittsburgh; Pressly J. Barr, Erie; W. M. Brown, New Castle; O. M. Fowler, Shunokin; Edward Kohler, North White Hall township, Lehigh county; Jacob A. Wenrich, Henry James, Wm. J. Belstering and Samuel P. Huteleson, Philadelphia; John P. Stoneback, Marietta; John L. Meily, Bethel township, Lebanon county; Orlando J. Saltmarsh, Troy, Bradford county; Alex. Gordon, Freeport, Armstrong county; John C. Gracey, Pittsburgh; W. H. Klingensmith, Greensburg, Westmoreland county; Frank C. Headman, J. M. J. Jermon, Thomas A. Cook and Edwin F. Glenn, Philadelphia.

The Judiciary General Committee of the Senate to-day compiled its budget and finally reported all the bills before it—quite a number, negatively. The Senate now has before it the great bulk of all the bills in the Legislature; and its calendar for next week will embrace nearly all the unfinished work of the session, except what has yet to come over from the House.

SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, April 17, 1874.

The House, to-day, did but little, but got into considerable excitement over a protest received from the Committee of Vice and Immorality, authorizing distillers and brewers to sell in their respective counties, notwithstanding the local option vote of the people. Mr. Toner moved to recommit, but that was voted down, 40 to 47, and the bill was finally made the order for Wednesday next. The House was not full, thirty-one members being absent. The bill's friends of the bill lacked only four of an absolute majority, and there were more than half to get them out of the absentees.

It seems to my poor vision, a remarkable distrust of the people to attempt to override any such bill. The vote of the people against license in the various counties has been almost two to one down, meant what it said, and ought to be respected. It is plain they do not want liquor sold among them; and an effort on the part of the Legislature to inflict on them a traffic they do not want, and against which they have recorded their solemn vote, is an act of bad faith which cannot be justified. I say this without any reference whatever to the temperance side of traffic. It it were of the highest possible character, a vote of the people against it should be respected. But, as I have said, simply because it is the voice of the people, and their voice is decisive.

There have been, I know, judicial decisions that the Local Option law does not apply to the manufacture of fruit and domestic liquors, and that the right to make implies necessarily the right to sell. This law, it is argued, is a legislative enforcement of such decisions. If, however, those decisions were unquestioned and unquestionable, they would not prevent a law to enforce them—they would enforce themselves. The decisions, unfortunately, but the argument, did not carry judicial weight with them, or there would be no necessity for legislation upon the subject.

The rest of the morning session in the House was occupied with bills on second reading of these.

Senate bill No. 46, An act to prevent trespass on inclosed lands within this Commonwealth for the purpose of hunting and shooting thereon, and

House No. 212, An act authorizing the United States Commissioners and clerks of the United States courts to take acknowledgments of deeds, depositions, etc., were both negatived.

At the afternoon session of the House, the committees reported nearly all the bills on their possession, and a few bills were read in place. One important business was done.

In the Senate, two sessions were held, and a great deal of work accomplished, considering that it was Friday. Several bills were passed on second and third reading was taken up and disposed of, and a number read the first time. Seven bills were twelve bills passed finally; over thirty were read a second time, and go on the orders for final passage next week, and nearly as many ready for second reading. The Senate is now fairly under way, and will probably finish its business in a week.

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When the House, however, reached the bill to prevent railroads from issuing free passes, it ran foul of a Legislative snag. That bill came up in the morning session, occupied all that was left of it, and consumed the entire afternoon session, and after the House had been in the two sessions, the only result attained was the adoption of a paltry substitute, making the penalty $100 for a violation, instead of $1,000, confining the operations of the bill exclusively to those railroad corporations *hereafter* created! This was, literally, a mountain in labor and bringing forth a mouse. The end reached was a poor justification for the time thrown away over it.

There has probably been more demagogism shown during this bill and a greater anxiety manifested over it as a means of attaining popularity, than over any other measure of the session. The effort on the part of Mr. Orvis, a Democrat, and the Democrats were willing to accept the place from their hands; but when it comes to confirming Republicans, they return the compliment by saying, No! It is characteristic and not at all surprising. Under such leading, nothing better could be expected.

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WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 16, 1874.

Status of the Finance Question.

The Senate Finance Committee, at their meeting to-day, all the members being present except Senator Wright, took up the House Currency bill and, after an informal discussion, decided to take no immediate action upon it. As no called session of the committee is contemplated, the bill cannot come up again until next Tuesday. It is not certain that they will consider it then. The discussion in the committee indicated that the House bill will either be reported adversely, or with such amendments as will secure provisions for redemption, and with other features, that it is not likely the Senate or the House, in their present frame of mind, will be willing to accept. During the discussion in the committee, it was admitted that there was no necessity for retaining the reserves of fifteen per cent., when the circulation is secured by United States bonds, and that requiring banks to keep five per cent. in the Treasury at Washington for the redemption of their notes was objectionable. Redemption in legal tenders at the Treasury is not considered objectionable, but if the committee should decide to report back the House bill to the Senate, there will be one amendment looking to the redemption of legal tenders in coin.

The Inflationists in the Senate,

who are so much exercised over the stupidity they exhibited in their tactics on the Finance bill, are trying to excuse themselves on the ground of the amendment of Senator Scott not having been sufficiently explained. The Senator's brief speech on April 6th, when he introduced the amendment, is a sufficient answer to this, as he then explained the full operation of his provision.

The Congressional Printer.

In the consideration and discussion of the Legislative Appropriation bill, to-day, the status of the Congressional Printer was changed, and his appointment was taken from the Senate and again vested in the President. In 1867, Congress, to deprive President Johnson of the possibility of an abuse of power declared the Public Printer an officer of the Senate. The House has late and recently insisted that the Senate has invariably refused to give up its control of the office, and it is not probable that they will agree to the amendment adopted to-day.

How the Salary Bill Passed.

In the discussion of the increase of salaries of certain subordinate officials, Mr. E. R. Hoar boldly asserted that the people of the country believed that the Salary bill of last session was passed by bribery, and that it was the universal belief that a portion of the various counties between them voted down, meant what it said, and ought to be respected. It is plain they do not want liquor sold among them; and an effort on the part of the Legislature to inflict on them a traffic they do not want, and against which they have recorded their solemn vote, is an act of bad faith which cannot be justified. I say this without any reference whatever to the temperance side of traffic. It it were of the highest possible character, a vote of the people against it should be respected. But, as I have said, simply because it is the voice of the people, and their voice is decisive.

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There has probably been more demagogism shown during this bill and a greater anxiety manifested over it as a means of attaining popularity, than over any other measure of the session. The effort on the part of Mr. Orvis, a Democrat, and the champion of the measure while under discussion, does not seem to find favor with the passes, and he knows that everybody else about here knows that he uses them, without stint or shame, and has yet he has championed this measure as if it were a crime to issue such passes, and based his whole prospects of political immortality on his simulated hostility to their issue. The House spent a long, long day, and wrangle and debate over the bill showed that many other members of the House intended his be the noisiest opportunity of their lives to win distinction. The whole affair was disgraceful, and their utter prohibition of demagogism ever yet got up; and the paltry result arrived at is proof conclusive that the House was not in earnest in the pressed hostility to the issue of free passes. The *letter* of the Constitution, possibly, has been complied with, and Pullmen Parlor Cars and their chances for passes hereafter; but the *spirit* of the Constitution has been as clearly set at naught. One cannot but wonder why, if any legislation on the subject was thought necessary, it was made to apply only to *future* railroad corporations. If the new Constitution does not apply to existing corporations, what is the necessity for any law at all on the subject, since it is extremely questionable if any can be passed now? I undertaken in any part of this State for years to come. Demagogism, however, must have its way, and it has had it to-day. I cannot bring myself to imagine even that any section of the House would vote for measures in the exhibition thus made of it to-day.

In the Senate, the Democrats, true to the canons hush, refused to vote for the confirmation of the judges nominated by the Governor. The Republicans, feeling that the public business, in the newly created districts, rendered it necessary that the men named for judges should be promptly confirmed, regarded it as a duty to bring the nominations up to-day, and accept the responsibility of their rejection with the Democrats. They have but 21 votes, counting the Senator from Allegheny, and it takes 22 votes to confirm, no one could be confirmed without Democratic votes. For the most part, the latter set silent for the day, refusing to vote at all, and although charged openly by Mr. Rutan with doing so in obedience to the dictates of a caucus, they sat mum, and could not be stung into either denial or an argument.

The true and only relief leaders the party ever had fell themselves placed in a false position by this action, and knew, in their hearts, they were doing a wrong thing; but the party lash was too strong for them, and they succumbed under it, sullen, silent and ashamed. For the time being, pure factional blindness took the sway, and the blind influence of the blind will both fall into the ditch.

No one alleges or pretends that there is any personal or legal objection to the Governor's nominees. Their fitness is conceded, and the necessity for their early confirmation is admitted. Next Monday is the first day of court in Lebanon and Adams, and no court can be held in either until the nominees are confirmed. Mr. McSherry, the Democratic Senator from Lebanon, spoke of an entire county, for the poor sake of being true to the dictates of a crazy caucus.

The Governor, as soon as apprised of the result, sent in a new message, renominating all the judges who failed of having confirmed, and this he will do, we presume, until confirmation takes place. The Democrats will have to face the music, consequently, every five days, until the session ends.

Every man of sense can see that the party has committed the grossest political folly in thus taking this course. The nomination of Orvis, a Democratic member of the House, was thought fit by all reflecting men to be of very doubtful legality. He was a member of the Legislature which created the new place he was nominated to, and it is a really grave and serious question whether he was not constitutionally ineligible. Yet, doubtful as was his case, the Democrats accepted the situation, consented to his confirmation, and raised no question on the subject; but when it comes to the case of men about whom there is, and can be, no question, they vote to lay them over, refuse to consent. No political party in Pennsylvania ever voluntarily placed itself in such a humiliating position before.

But if they can stand it, we can. If this course is necessary to enable Clymer and Buckalew to crush out Wallace, so be it. The people of nine judicial districts can afford to be kept waiting for the administration of justice while the factions fight out their fight. The fault is not ours, and the responsibility is where it belongs. What is justice, and judicial protection, compared with the, as yet, unsettled question as to who shall lead the Democratic party? Let the people stand by and wait until this momentous issue is settled.

The following bills passed finally in the Senate.

Senate bill to regulate the manner of increasing the indebtedness of municipalities, to provide for the redemption of the same, and to prescribe penalties for illegal increase thereof.

House joint resolution providing for the printing of the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

Senate bill to aid the Indiana Normal School of Pennsylvania.

House bill supplement to the act approved May 1, A. D., 1874, entitled An act to amend and consolidate the several acts relating to game and fish, and to fix the time when certain birds may be killed (from September to January).

House, bill to provide for submitting questions of fact to the courts in the trial of civil causes, with amendments.

Mr. Wallace named his Lock Haven Normal School bill from $25,000 to $40,000, so as to bring it down to the amount given to the Indiana school, and the bill, so amended, went over to be printed, but will pass to-morrow.

Mr. Rutan offered a bill to authorize the Governor to appoint a Commission of seven to report to the next Legislature amendments to the Constitution, and at the afternoon session reported the bill back as committed. This ridiculously abortive method has just been tried, and failed, in New Jersey and New York; but Pennsylvania cannot profit by the experience of others. She must go through the mill herself before she can learn the planest of all plain lessons—that Constitutional Commissions are nuisances and abortions, worse even than Constitutional Conventions, if such a thing can be.

Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny, also read in place a bill to repeal all laws rendering special schools necessary for colored children, and, at the afternoon session, reported it back from the Education Committee, so as to give it place on next week's calendar.

At the afternoon session of the Senate the bill providing a method for erecting new counties came up on second reading, and after amending the first section so as to make the Secretary of Commonwealth, Secretary of Internal Affairs and Auditor General, a Board to appoint commissioners for superintending the work of erecting new counties, and requiring that the petition for a new county shall be signed by two thousand qualified voters, the section was voted down, 13 to 15, and the bill fell. There will be a reconsideration, probably.

The Insurance bill also came up on second reading; but in order to get it into proper shape, it was recommitted to the Committee on Corporations.

The bill from the House, relative to entailments, came up in order on second reading, and on a standing vote, 9 to 5, the first section fell; but the yeas and nays being called, a motion was made to postpone it, and it was postponed accordingly. It seems to have but a poor chance of passage.

The following nominations made by the Governor were confirmed unanimously:

S. S. Olds, to be a Commissioner of Deeds, for the term of five years, to reside at Lansing, Michigan.

Dr. Wm. J. McKnight, of Brookville, Jefferson county, to be Coroner of that county.

Notaries Public—M. H. Horseman and Wm. A. Herring, Pittsburgh; Pressly J. Barr, Erie; W. M. Brown, New Castle; O. M. Fowler, Shunokin; Edward Kohler, North White Hall township, Lehigh county; Jacob A. Wenrich, Henry James, Wm. J. Belstering and Samuel P. Huteleson, Philadelphia; John L. Stoneback, Marietta; John L. Meily, Bethel township, Lebanon county; Orlando J. Saltmarsh, Troy, Bradford county; Alex. Gordon, Freeport, Armstrong county; John C. Gracey, Pittsburgh; W. H. Klingensmith, Greensburg, Westmoreland county; Frank C. Headman, J. M. J. Jermon, Thomas A. Cook and Edwin F. Glenn, Philadelphia.

The Judiciary General Committee of the Senate to-day compiled its budget and finally reported all the bills before it—quite a number, negatively. The Senate now has before it the great bulk of all the bills in the Legislature; and its calendar for next week will embrace nearly all the unfinished work of the session, except what has yet to come over from the House.

SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, April 17, 1874.

The House, to-day, did but little, but got into considerable excitement over a protest received from the Committee of Vice and Immorality, authorizing distillers and brewers to sell in their respective counties, notwithstanding the local option vote of the people. Mr. Toner moved to recommit, but that was voted down, 40 to 47, and the bill was finally made the order for Wednesday next. The House was not full, thirty-one members being absent. The bill's friends of the bill lacked only four of an absolute majority, and there were more than half to get them out of the absentees.

It seems to my poor vision, a remarkable distrust of the people to attempt to override any such bill. The vote of the people against license in the various counties has been almost two to one down, meant what it said, and ought to be respected. It is plain they do not want liquor sold among them; and an effort on the part of the Legislature to inflict on them a traffic they do not want, and against which they have recorded their solemn vote, is an act of bad faith which cannot be justified. I say this without any reference whatever to the temperance side of traffic. It it were of the highest possible character, a vote of the people against it should be respected. But, as I have said, simply because it is the voice of the people, and their voice is decisive.

There have been, I know, judicial decisions that the Local Option law does not apply to the manufacture of fruit and domestic liquors, and that the right to make implies necessarily the right to sell. This law, it is argued, is a legislative enforcement of such decisions. If, however, those decisions were unquestioned and unquestionable, they would not prevent a law to enforce them—they would enforce themselves. The decisions, unfortunately, but the argument, did not carry judicial weight with them, or there would be no necessity for legislation upon the subject.

The rest of the morning session in the House was occupied with bills on second reading of these.

Senate bill No. 46, An act to prevent trespass on inclosed lands within this Commonwealth for the purpose of hunting and shooting thereon, and

House No. 212, An act authorizing the United States Commissioners and clerks of the United States courts to take acknowledgments of deeds, depositions, etc., were both negatived.

At the afternoon session of the House, the committees reported nearly all the bills on their possession, and a few bills were read in place. One important business was done.

In the Senate, two sessions were held, and a great deal of work accomplished, considering that it was Friday. Several bills were passed on second and third reading was taken up and disposed of, and a number read the first time. Seven bills were twelve bills passed finally; over thirty were read a second time, and go on the orders for final passage next week, and nearly as many ready for second reading. The Senate is now fairly under way, and will probably finish its business in a week.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 17, 1874.

Expenses of Public Printing.

The bill reported by the Committee on Printing for the reduction of the pay of employees of the public printing office to the same rates as are paid for composition and binding in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and New York, occasions considerable excitement. A committee has been appointed to take charge of the matter before Congress, and a memorial has been made before the committee, showing that the increased cost of living, especially in the matter of rents, is no more than offset by the present reduction. The Chronicle has stated at twenty-five per cent., and if the bill should pass, it would effect a reduction of a quarter of a million of dollars in the expenses of the printing office and bindery.

Abolishing the Appraisers.

The bill passed by the House, abolishing the office of appraisers created under the Direct Importation act of 1870, is now being considered by the Senate Finance Committee, and will, it is understood, be reported favorably. The committee will consider these offices at interior cities, unnecessary to the efficiency of the customs service.

Pittsburgh Marine Hospital.

The bill for the sale of the old marine hospital at Pittsburgh, and the erection of a new one, by mistake referred to the Committee on Appropriations, has been referred to the Committee on Commerce. The committee is in favor of the sale.

The Nomination of General McCook

to be Governor of Arizona, which has been pending for some months, was favorably reported to the Senate, in Executive session day before yesterday, and was taken up for action to-day. The nomination has given rise to a hot contest between the two wings of the party in the Territory. This afternoon the friends of the bill will make a move to get it into shape.

When the bill making the annual appropriation to the Pennsylvania Lunatic Hospital at Harrisburg came up on second reading, Mr. Davis moved to amend the proviso "that so long as applications of indigent insane persons are pending for admission to said hospital, no additional patients shall be received," by adding after the word person the words "of any class or condition."

Mr. Davis advocated the amendment and Mr. Chalfant opposed it. The latter gentleman said he thought the gentlemen's proposition was a good one, and a reform on the truest principles. If the Legislature to inflict on them a traffic they do not want, and against which they have recorded their solemn vote, is an act of bad faith which cannot be justified. I say this without any reference whatever to the temperance side of traffic. It it were of the highest possible character, a vote of the people against it should be respected. But, as I have said, simply because it is the voice of the people, and their voice is decisive.

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Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, April 16, 1874.

The two Houses have met to-day in session all day, and yet have accomplished comparatively little. The House took up the calendar of bills on second reading, and acted on some twenty-six bills. To-morrow will be taken up for final action, to-morrow or next week, the only bill more locally being Senate bill No. 46, to prevent trespass on inclosed lands within this Commonwealth. This is the only business in Pennsylvania without having known places and authorized signs, which has gone to the Governor.

When the House, however, reached the bill to prevent railroads from issuing free passes, it ran foul of a Legislative snag. That bill came up in the morning session, occupied all that was left of it, and consumed the entire afternoon session, and after the House had been in the two sessions, the only result attained was the adoption of a paltry substitute, making the penalty $100 for a violation, instead of $1,000, confining the operations of the bill exclusively to those railroad corporations *hereafter* created! This was, literally, a mountain in labor and bringing forth a mouse. The end reached was a poor justification for the time thrown away over it.

There has probably been more demagogism shown during this bill and a greater anxiety manifested over it as a means of attaining popularity, than over any other measure of the session. The effort on the part of Mr. Orvis, a Democrat, and the champion of the measure while under discussion, does not seem to find favor with the passes, and he knows that everybody else about here knows that he uses them, without stint or shame, and has yet he has championed this measure as if it were a crime to issue such passes, and based his whole prospects of political immortality on his simulated hostility to their issue. The House spent a long, long day, and wrangle and debate over the bill showed that many other members of the House intended his be the noisiest opportunity of their lives to win distinction. The whole affair was disgraceful, and their utter prohibition of demagogism ever yet got up; and the paltry result arrived at is proof conclusive that the House was not in earnest in the pressed hostility to the issue of free passes. The *letter* of the Constitution, possibly, has been complied with, and Pullmen Parlor Cars and their chances for passes hereafter; but the *spirit* of the Constitution has been as clearly set at naught. One cannot but wonder why, if any legislation on the subject was thought necessary, it was made to apply only to *future* railroad corporations. If the new Constitution does not apply to existing corporations, what is the necessity for any law at all on the subject, since it is extremely questionable if any can be passed now

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1874.

THERE is evidently a very foul chimney down in Arkansas; and perhaps the best way is to let it burn itself out, care being taken only that it does not set the house on fire.

THE ex-rebel pirate SEMMES wants to be amnestied, but objects to the humiliation of petitioning Congress for the removal of his disabilities. Then let him wait until Doomsday. If he is too proud to cry *peccavi*, he ought to be too manly to desire to be forgiven.

ONE fact developed by the recent discussions over the defeated Compulsory State Educational bill was, that in many places there are not school houses enough to educate all the children, if they were compelled to attend. This is a defect which ought to be remedied.

A TEMPORARY sojourner in Chicago writes from that city to a New York paper that it is quite discouraging to the fastidious stranger to discover that he cannot keep his face clean longer than half an hour at a time, unless he remains indoors. That's not the worst of it. Residence in that city —at least if protracted for any considerable period—has also a tendency to turn people into blackamoors internally as well as externally.

THE Detroit *Post* has just published an interesting detailed account of the manufacturing industries of that city, from which it appears that Detroit has 402 manufactories, the largest number in single branches being cigars, breweries, iron, and furniture; capital employed, $28,540,090; value of annual products, $28,540,000; number of employees, 14,668; annual amount paid in wages, $7,131,780. These figures indicate a wider range of manufacturing and industrial activity and prosperity in the City of the Straits than has generally been supposed to exist.

WE LEARN that a concerted movement is on foot among the workingmen's organizations in all parts of the country in regard to the Eight-Hour law, the currency question, and other matters. A series of public meetings have been arranged for in all the leading cities, to be held about the middle of next month. *The movement is understood to be chiefly political in purpose, and some of its projectors expect it to be so formidable as to create a new party*—in other words, they have simply gotten it up for the advancement of their own selfish aims and purposes. The workingmen of the country will do well to refuse to permit themselves to be used as cat's-paws by these ambitious demagogues, in any manner whatsoever.

MR. WILLIAM BLACKMORE is a foreigner of great wealth, who proposes to invest a modest couple of million dollars, or thereabouts, in opening up the iron mines of the northern wilderness of New York, and a bill has just been passed by the Legislature of that State to enable him to hold real estate, which, being an alien, he could not otherwise do. The extent of the mineral wealth of the great Adirondack region has never been fully estimated as yet, but it is a somewhat curious fact that the field has been so little worked by capitalists. We have a goodly number of colored citizens in Pennsylvania, but we should by no means object to the accession of one BLACKMORE, of such a sort—or a township full of them, for that matter.

IT IS possible, according to one of the poets, for "men to rise on stepping stones of their dead selves to higher things." We observe that, at a recent reunion of soldiers in Indiana, Governor HENDRICKS delivered an address, in which he thanked the soldiers of that State "for their efforts in behalf of the liberty and union of this great and glorious country." A little over ten years ago this same enthusiastically patriotic individual "thanked God" that he had never advised any man to lift a finger in vindication of that liberty, or in defense of that imperiled Union. But Governor HENDRICKS is supposed to have a Presidential maggot breeding in his brain—and that may account for the astonishing change which has since taken place in the tone of his voice.

THE *Mining and Engineering Journal* states that the celebrated Sartwell Park trial boring for coal, in England, *has, after* many serious discouragements, reached very brilliant prospects. March 20th, at the depth of three hundred and eighty yards, a coal seam two and a half feet thick, was struck. The coal strongly resembled what is known as the Brooch coal, and the identity was confirmed within a week by the passage through the Brooch ironstone, pins ironstone and Herring coal ten inches thick. The establishment of this identity is very important. The long dispute about the existence of thick coal measures under the Permain rocks is now almost established, and English coal geology has received an important accession of knowledge. As to the effect of this discovery upon the material interests of Great Britain, it cannot fail to be very great.

SELF-CONTAINED Boston is not a little excited over a report that the Pennsylvania Ceniral Railroad is maturing a plan looking to the establishment of an Eastern Atlantic terminus in that city and another in Halifax, on the basis of which the *Traveller* builds castles in this glowing wise: "Among the beneficial effects will be the utilizing of the navy yard property and water front for commercial purposes. With the immense resources of such a corporation as these consolidated lines will form, there can be erected and completed on the navy yard site the most magnificent docks, warehouses and elevators in the United States, with a harbor approach already unsurpassed." What was the imaginary value of the imaginary commodities on the purchase of which the gay young maid, tripping with her egg-basket to market, had determined, before that unlucky misstep of her's made an omelette on the ground?

THE evidences of the rapid growth of Philadelphia as a commercial port continue to increase. The spring trade in grain is opening unusually brisk, and the shipments bid fair to exceed those of any preceding year. There are so many vessels lying in the stream waiting to be loaded that the elevator is obliged to be run day and night, and even then it is unable to accommodate them. Between thirty and forty large-sized vessels have been loaded with grain this month, being nearly three times as many as received their cargoes from that port during the same time last year. The *Inquirer* says that a new elevator is being erected by the International Navigation Company, at Greenwich, in order to meet the growing demand. It will be in direct communication by rail with the Pennsylvania Railroad, and will undoubtedly greatly facilitate the shipment of grain from that port. It is a great pleasure to us to note these augmenting indications of enterprise and push on the part of our sister city.

THE St. Louis *Republican* gives an extended and interesting description of a new invention just perfected by an old resident of that city, for obviating the disadvantages arising from the smoke on steam engines, whether on steamboats, railroads or stationary. The model is described as representing the boilers, &c., of a steam engine, but instead of the smoke ascending upward out of chimneys, in the ordinary way, it is conveyed, by an ingenious mechanical device, underneath, and consumed or expelled at any point where it will be the least objectionable. During some recent experiments a quantity of brown straw paper, representing a fuel affording abundance of smoke, was ignited in the furnace, and by the turning of a hand crank a draft was caused which set the paper ablaze and drew the smoke through the upright tin tank, representing the flues of a boiler, where it entered a tube which passed over the boiler and descended on the opposite side underneath, where, by the suction caused by a mechanical contrivance, the smoke was expelled, after having made the circuit around the machine. If smoke can be conveyed or drawn to any place desired, under the control of a simple mechanical device, it will be seen at once what an advantage will be possessed in propelling our steamers. The invention will do away with high chimneys or any visible chimneys at all, and thus solve the important problem in regard to encountering bridge obstruction, inasmuch as, without the stately chimney, our largest steamboats could pass under the arches of bridges as easily as barges or canalboats. There would be no need of a smoke-stack above the boiler-deck of any steamer. The engineers have entire control over the draught, and would consequently be able to control the generating of steam. By this process all the smoke may, it is claimed, be carried back over the fire and consumed, and a saving of fuel effected of from twenty-five to thirty per cent. Should further experiments, upon a larger scale, attest the practicability of the contrivance, as claimed, it will prove one of the most valuable inventions of the age.

REVISED SWISS CONSTITUTION.

It is very natural that our republican brethren of Switzerland should rejoice, as, according to the cable dispatch of yesterday, they do "rejoice in the overwhelming majority for the revision of the Federal Constitution." The election alluded to took place on the 19th of the present month, and is regarded by the Swiss as the triumph of principles essential to the progress and prosperity of their confederation. All readers of the newspapers are aware of the fact that for several years Switzerland has been greatly agitated by various movements in favor of reform. The relations of the cantons to the confederation were not satisfactorily defined; cantonal and national legislation required to be adjusted and harmonized, and there were hot religious or rather ecclesiastical controversies arising out of the connection of Church and State which called for permanent settlement by judicious revision of the Federal Constitution all disturbing questions could be settled, all needful reforms could be effected, and the revision of the Constitution has long been the great subject of political debate and struggle between the opposing parties of the Centralists and the Federalists. When, a year or somewhat more ago, the first revision of the instrument was submitted to the people for approval or rejection, it failed to receive the necessary vote, mostly, if we rightly remember, through Ultramontane influence in the less progressive cantons. Since then the work has been again revised, each of the antagonist parties making some concessions to the views of the other, and the constitution just adopted is the result of the compromise.

The changes made in the Constitution by the revision are largely in the direction of centralization. They would, however, all appear to be necessary to the unity of the confederate government, to the harmonious and effective action of the cantons as a single nation. Under *the revised instrument the confederation* will legislate on all subjects pertaining to the relations of citizens of different cantons, such as contracts, commerce, etc., and provision is made for a still wider extension of the powers of the national Legislature in the future. In all military affairs the confederation is made supreme; to it belongs the duty of providing for the instruction and training of troops, and the cantons can commission only such officers as have certificates of qualification from the military authorities of the confederation. But the changes of most general interest are those relating to matters ecclesiastical. Absolute and unconditional freedom of religious belief is declared to be a fundamental principle of the confederacy. Every citizen within the limits of morality and public order, is at liberty to worship God as he or she thinks right, and all are entitled to equal protection in the exercise of their religious duties. No bishopric can be established in Swiss territory without the consent of the national government. The Swiss national government recognizes no permanent representative of a foreign spiritual power. In order to occupy a spiritual office the aspirant must be a native of possessing scientific culture. Jesuits are excluded from all ecclesiastical and educational work in Switzerland. Neither new monasteries or nunneries may be opened nor old ones resuscitated. Religious orders of all names are prohibited. The civil relations of marriage, control of burial places, etc., are under the jurisdiction of the civil authorities.

By these enactments the reader perceives that the Swiss citizen is rendered as independent as possible of priestly authority. Liberal Americans not conscious of Romanizing tendencies, may regret that Swiss republicans think it necessary to prohibit even Catholics from being pious in their own way, by devoting themselves, for example, to the contemplative life in a cloister. Mr. Lecky, not a novice, in his "History of European Morals," expresses the opinion that rationalist statesmen make a great mistake in their uncompromising war against those institutions, often the last resorts of the miserable, *the only retreats which it is possible* for sensitive and wounded spirits to find on earth. We may trust that the American people may not soon have any sufficient motive for restricting, in the Swiss manner, the religious freedom of any sect. In the meantime we may safely rest assured that, when such a people as the Swiss, in actual struggle with the Papacy, adopt measures of the sort referred to, great numbers of educated Catholics concurring in the policy, they must have, or at least think they have, very good reasons for what they do. It is a significant fact that by the revised Constitution education is made obligatory and gratuitous in all the cantons. In the long lapse of the Middle Ages, nations, and the necessity of extending the system seems to be only a part of the moral pressure which urges the Swiss forward in the attempt to counteract generally what they regard as demoralizing and unrepublican agencies. The Constitution expressly provides that the teachers in all the schools shall be of the laity, secular, not clerical characters.

We must not forget to mention that in the revised Constitution Sunday is recognized as a day of rest, the regulation of the day being left to the Legislature, and that capital punishment is abolished, except that in time of war all penalties fixed in the military code are to be inflicted. In case eight cantons or thirty thousand citizens entitled to vote shall demand that an act of the national Legislature be submitted to the judgment of the people, it must be done.

For us Americans this revised Swiss Constitution ought to have some interest for several reasons which hardly need mention. As mere events of the day the adoption of the Constitution by an overwhelming majority of the popular vote and the rejoicing to which its adoption has given rise are instructive facts, especially in view of certain articles of the instrument.

A RHODE ISLAND paper gives an interesting account of a series of experiments that for some months have been in progress at a foundry in that city in the manufacture of iron by the aid of petroleum. The principle of the process is the vaporizing of petroleum by superheated steam, and the carrying of the vapor, which is condensable by cold, by steam to the furnaces, where it is burnt in connection with a blast of air. The experiments show that a busheling furnace, usually taking seven or eight hours to heat from the cold with coal, can be heated with petroleum vapor in about thirty-five minutes, and that instead of four heats an hour with coal, six heats with vapor can be obtained, producing six balls, with an aggregate production of 1,050 pounds of iron per hour. Twelve gallons of petroleum an hour were consumed, the generator and superheater being heated with about five hundred pounds of anthracite a day. There is a decided saving in both fuel and labor, and experiments show a loss of only thirteen per cent. in melting and distributing the heat in the common process the loss is about twenty-five per cent. The petroleum iron was softer and finer than that produced in the old way. The petroleum flame contains no sulphur to contaminate the metal, while the flame from coal or coal gas is always sulphur laden. The blow-pipe flame of the petroleum furnace also decomposes and dissipates the sulphides and phosphides to a greater degree than is possible with coal. This is of special importance in puddling. Experiments in reducing iron ore dug from that State will be made soon. Further developments concerning the value and adaptability of the innovation as applied to iron manufacture will be watched with interest.

SPANISH women thank every passing admirer for a word of compliment to their beauty; but American women demand an introduction before they can even be grateful for a favor. When they are offered a seat in a street car they fall into it with the dullness of a wooden image, and they need not wonder if, after a time, men grow tired of being kind to such ill-mannered goddesses. Politeness to ladies in public conveyances has gone out of fashion, and, high strapping low forms, as not likely to come in again till the ladies themselves learn better manners.—*New York Herald.*

Now comes General G. A. Custer and says that General Hazon knows nothing about the matter in asserting that the lands through which the Northern Pacific Railway passes are entirely worthless. Custer says it isn't so.

FROM COLUMBUS, O.

Adjournment of the Ohio Legislature—What They Have Done—And More Particularly What They Have Not Done—The Redistricting Fiasco and the Men Who Caused It—Some Appointments Which Might Have Been Worse—Two Injured Parties Set Right.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

COLUMBUS, O., April 20, 1874.

After being together one hundred and eight days, the Reform Legislature of Ohio closed its first session to-day. Without a leader to control its policy, without a policy indeed except to throw Republicans out of office and to instal Democrats in their places, with no object to attain but the main chance in the distribution of patronage, it is not to be wondered that its labors are looked on with contempt and the day of its adjournment hailed with delight. The era of the Restoration, which was to dawn on us all with such bright political blessings, has been productive, thus far, of little else than discord and trouble to the leaders and bickerings and jealousies and a mad scramble for office among the rank and file of the party. No measure of any importance has even been broached, and if they had could never have succeeded in the incongruous assemblage, which is known as the "working majority" of the two Houses. Unable to accomplish any good, or even to do much harm, they did the best, and certainly the most graceful, thing possible for them to day, and went home.

THE SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS.

Let us see what they have done under all this wild cry for reform. They have attempted to redistrict the State and failed in it. They have made two investigations and attempted a third, and failed to discover anything worth investigating. Twice have they attempted to amend the liquor laws of the State, and both times failed. They have attempted to reduce the rate of county and State taxation, and failed. They announced, with a great flourish, that the State expenses should be cut down fully one-half, and while the necessary expenditures for finishing the asylums already under contract would alone have decreased it nearly half a million, the Appropriation bill shows a reduction of only two hundred thousand from that of last year, or only about ten per cent. They have abolished no offices, but have created new ones instead, to give place to hungry politicians, and increased the pay of others. Finally, they have reconstructed the benevolent institutions. Ah, yes, here is something tangible that has been accomplished. They have turned out a Board of Asylum Trustees that served faithfully for nothing but pay in a Board of Commissioners with salaries; they have turned out Boards of Directors, several of them, to put in Boards of Trustees as many more; they have abolished Boards of Trustees to put in their stead Boards of Directors, and over all this they have placed the Governor, as the embodiment of all power, the autocrat of the Restoration.

THE PENITENTIARY

has been reorganized by its new Board of Directors of course. I forget which *it is* they call them; and the scandal is so great over their appointments that a bill is hurried through the Legislature to change the name of the board to remove them, before they had installed their appointees in the places which had been parceled out to them. They have not been appointed, because it would secure the next place to the nephew of the president of the Board; a chaplain has been appointed, because he agreed to discontinue a libel suit he had commenced against one of the party's hack clerk, because he was son-in-law to another; a steward, because he was related to still another, and so on, until all the places at their disposal were bestowed on their friends. And because so much of a scandal that a law had to be passed to give the Governor power to remove the very men he had just given office to. The new Boards of Asylum Trustees either have not organized, or, having organized, have not indicated in any way what their policy will be in the management of the institutions or in the appointment of officers.

But the

REDISTRICTING FIASCO

was the most dismal failure of them all. It had been regarded as an essential part of the Restoration programme that the Congressional districts should be so arranged as to shore the State of Ohio as a Democratic state. There was a deal of shuffling around, and a score of maps were made out, each of which they thought would secure the desired Congressional majority, but when the time came for action, on the floor, and when it was brought before the House for passage, a different result was engrafted upon it. This removed the cause of obligation from the Senate, and when it was brought before them there, they changed every district excepting those in Cuyahoga and Hamilton counties—made no material change in the bill as it came up from the House, and passed it. Then they attempted to get the House to concur in the amendments, but when the amended bill came up for passage it was defeated. Then they attempted to get a Conference Committee appointed, putting it on its passage a second time, knowing that the lower House would defeat it, but believing that they could come to no much harm, the original bill as it was when it left the House. But here they failed again. The House was disgusted to Congress were pleased well enough with their own plan, but would rather see it killed than to have the House win a victory, and when it came up for the third time on Saturday night they slaughtered it. And this ended the hopes for new districts. The old ones will stand.

A FEW CONGRESSIONAL ASPIRANTS.

And while speaking of this, let us turn for a moment to the Congressional aspirations of some of these gentlemen. Here, in the Columbus district, there will be two places to fill. Jewett has announced his determination to resign at the end of the session, and his successor for the unexpired term will have to be chosen. With John Thompson shelved away in the Railroad Commissioner's office there is one less candidate here, and the short man may be thrown as a sop to one of the other counties in the district. It is not unlikely that General Walling, of Circleville, will be the man. He is Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee, and is a man who will be very much pitied to select. For the full term the race will be between Converse, late Speaker of the House, and the field, consisting of Baber, of Columbus, General Schleigh, of Lancaster, and A. J. Rickley, of Circleville. Converse will doubtless distance them all. In the Nineteenth district, Ashtabula, Portage, Geauga and Trumbull, they are making up a field against General Garfield. In each county there is some opposition to him, and if it is believed that each county shall put forward its own candidate when the convention is held, and the one who shows the most strength will have the united support of all the opposition. Senator Jones, of Trumbull, is named as one, Lieutenant Governor Hart, of Portage, as another, and Representative Harland as still another available man to concentrate upon. The probabilities, however, are, that when the time arrives for nominations, will lead them all. In the Thirteenth district, Licking, Muskingum, Coshocton and Tuscarawas, ex-Senator Keifer will be a candidate, though the chances are in favor of the renomination of Mr. Southard, the present incumbent, who is only serving his first term. In the Seneca, Huron and Erie district, which has come to be considered the Presidential one this fall, Senator Hudson, of Sandusky city, will be a candidate, with Senator Scribner, of Erie, to dispute the honor of a nomination with him. Billy Armstrong, of the Cleveland *Plain Dealer*, who lives in Tiffin, will also be in the reward by his friends. In the Toledo district, Senator Potter wants, and will probably receive, the Democratic nomination, and will make a gallant race for defeat. So you see the Senators have no reason for being little Napoleons in the redistricting business. It is something they are nearly all interested in, being candidates themselves.

TWO NEW BOARDS.

Acting under the bills to reorganize the State benevolent institutions, the Governor this morning sent in the nominations of trustees for the State Institution for the Blind and the Soldiers and Sailors' Orphans Home. The nominations for the latter positions are much better than the average of the Governor's selections, and it is a pleasure to me to give a word of approval regarding them. The new trustees of the Soldiers' Orphans Home are General Durbin Ward, of Lebanon, General Warren J. Keifer, of Springfield, Jacob Haynes, of Xenia, Asa. H. Keifer, of Troy, and Colonel White, of Toledo. Generals Ward and Keifer, who will be the active managers of the Home, are both military men, of certain reputation, and they will take a pride in making the institution what it was intended to be by its founders, in their hands, I believe, the institution will be no less prosperous or useful than it was under the management of those who have been displaced.

THE BLIND ASYLUM BOARD

consists of Henry C. Noble, a prominent Columbus lawyer, Thomas Bergin, a Columbus saloon keeper, and John Sharp, a wealthy farmer and stock raiser, who enjoys the relationship of brother-in-law to Senator Thurman. In this institution it is said there will be no material change, the management requiring a degree of education such as can not be obtained in every household, and would therefore be tampered with any change to want a place for party services. It is pleasant to think that at least two of the noble State charities will not be tampered with and legislated out of existence.

A CORRECTION.

In a recent letter I spoke of Mr. Lewis, the member from Tuscarawas county, and the author of the bill to reorganize the Insane Asylums, as having delivered a speech in support of his measure, which was originally the property of Peter Hitchcock, the delegate from Geauga county to the Constitutional Convention. After giving Mr. Lewis' argument a careful examination, and comparing it with the production of Mr. Hitchcock, I have concluded that I did both gentlemen an injustice. Mr. Lewis certainly never made Mr. Hitchcock's speech, and I hardly think Mr. Hitchcock would accuse him of it. The reporter's notes, doubtless, from the same source, but their arguments and conclusions widely different. With the same figures to draw from, one endeavored to prove the benevolence of the State in a thoroughly demoralized and rotten condition, while the other showed that the management was economical and prosperous of their kind in this country. It was a conflict of conclusions which I would not undertake to reconcile. And while Mr. Lewis took the assertion as a personal affront, and accused me of being a Republican, I am glad to find that its author, it is a pleasure to me, who was never suspected, and certainly never charged with being a Republican. I hail the correction—unsolicited, at least by him. It is a pleasant thing thus to be able to relieve the embarrassment of an awkward dilemma in which I placed them. GUILDENFOILE.

An Item.

According to the decennial United States census taken in 1870, the annual production of Pennsylvania was $2,000,000,000, a sum exceeding the wealth of the entire South. Three years of remarkable progress have now elapsed since that census was taken, and the old Keystone State has gone on steadily the same as before, increasing her railroads, her mining and manufacturing investments, her agriculture and her general production. The ratio of production in 1870 was $600 per head of the population. But this ratio is constantly increasing once and in 1880 the production is very likely to reach $3,000,000,000 per annum. It is only by the study of statistics like these that we see how much these great States really are the forcing houses of the republic, and the extent to which the republic reposes upon them. The production of Pennsylvania seems to be only limited by her transportation. If she had ten thousand miles of railroad she could then go one hundred far ahead of New York State in population and wealth. And the same result would ensue if all her rivers and canals were improved and navigated upon the largest scale. The mystery is that such immense superiority and such a future this Commonwealth should be such a prolific fountain of emigration to all other States—north, south, east and west. To Kansas alone we have sent three times as many emigrants as the whole six New England States. Yet Kansas passes for a rebuff of New England."—*Philadelphia North American.*

FROM ERIE, PA.

The New Mayor—An Elegant Business Block—Petroleum Railroad—Political—Hon. Henry C. Johnson.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

ERIE, PA., April 18, 1874.

Spring, with the accompaniments of opening tulips, hyacinths, callas, &c., joining the robins in their sweet praise and apparent joy, is upon us. And not alone in these do we note it, but in opening, days since, of our harbor, the departures and arrivals of white-winged messengers of commerce, the commencement of out-door work generally, and not least the annual spring election of the Mayor of your only lake, and our vigorous thriving city, in the person of Hon. Henry Rawle, as we advised you by telegraph at the time. And just here, we feel pleased to be able to say that he is one possessed of such qualifications, experience and sense as must not only greatly enhance his good standing among his townspeople, but add to that already enviable reputation years of experience in the Shenango Valley iron interest and various railroad enterprises hereabouts has given him. He is the leading spirit in our iron manufacturing interests here now. With our city water works and other municipal interests he has been largely identified, and not least to him does Erie owe their great excellence and value. More anon.

We are pleased to learn, from semi-official sources, of the probable early construction of the Petroleum Railroad, giving us another route to oil fields. Partially built, its completion would add largely to our local interests, and as a hopeful prospective avenue in part to the bituminous coal fields, is intensely desired by very many of our people and interests.

One of the finest business blocks in the State is rapidly approaching completion on State street, corner of Tenth—iron front, six stories high, admitting of two fine stores on the first floor, very wide with high ceiling, and a depth of about one hundred and sixty feet. It would ornament any avenue, and is a great honor to its projector and builder, Hon. William L. Scott.

Politically we are not quiet. Our corner seems early to have begun Congressional and other issues, if we may say the first-named did not continue over from the last year's. It is time Erie county shook off her lethargy, and in representative positions placed sons worthy of her and her proud Republican record. Too long the lives for others to find themselves in her, than her own, and not quite as choice as she should be, who of them. What has she deserved of us? Look at the treachery of party and honor, the selling the noble birthright and honored place as her representative for official and other considerations, the humiliation and disgrace of every comrade in our ranks. It is time a realization was reached of our true situation and men of only known and acknowledged integrity and party faith put in position. As a legitimate sequence of over half a score years of continued success, there has crept into some official corners the nihilistic fungus which somewhat, if not all they touch. These must be rooted out, and the sooner our great party demands an unconditional surrender of place by them, the better for it. They are foreign, in every impulse, to the tendencies and aspirations of true Republicanism. That this sentiment is governing somewhat, now, is the invigorating, life-giving fact that is so surely sustaining our party. In Northwestern Pennsylvania, if not much more than in any other part, has this evil for some years reaped its natural

REDISTRICTING FIASCO

and, in some districts, absolute defeat. The grand old county of Crawford was thus wrung from us, though a few brave hearts manfully withstood the storm of treecreancy and rout. Among the faithful a born leader and an accomplished lawyer and gentleman, stood the genial Venango county statesman of Hon. Henry C. Johnson, of Meadville. Faithful to his party, earnest in advocating her principles and eloquent in their defense, with his untiring energy and natural generalship, he manfully bristled to the front of place and power, and fought the good fight, as never before it was or soon will be, bringing the faithful out of it covered with honors if not victory. To such a be should recognition be given, and Erie county Republicans rejoice to know that our great Captain was called him to the front. As Commissioner of Customs he will be an honor to the administration, and efficiently valuable to the service. We trust his acceptance will not cause his forgetfulness of his old comrades, who will yet need his encouraging counsels to lead them to victory. Tried and true, such men are the ones to arm for the battle and to victory. Many times, however, by place from the people, they will want his services more. It is to be hoped the great scandal of all has now brought to a head, that it can be no longer said by our enemies, as in the past a notorious fact in Northwestern Pennsylvania, that official place has been used as a means of packing the jury and prosecution, in the name of law, for some. There can be but one result: truth will rise, and temporary suppressions will only serve to drive into new fruitful soil, that action of the people. Men's lives are public property, and especially those in official places, and no party or set of men can long continue their unjust practices.

When perjury and fraud are attempted, *and innocent tools* obtained by false protestations, as charged in the Soldiers' Orphanage matter, the Senate, the Legislature, the Governor, the Supreme Court, the Judiciary if they do not play their part, in convicting political rivals or opponents—when this stage is reached, the cry for reform in the party must and will be heard, or it will be destroyed by itself; and with recent changes we trust we see no doubtful sign of a better time and still greater purity. This we are ready, not to oppress, but to protect, and character and virtue are not obsolete. ERIE.

COAL MINING.

Removal of Supporting Columns, and Consequent Danger to the Surface—Passage of Stringent Laws Demanded.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

I see the Legislature of Pennsylvania has passed a law authorizing Governor Hartranft to appoint three Commissioners to investigate the bituminous coal mines and report to him. This is certainly an important move, and one of vast interest to miners, land holders and all residing in the bituminous coal region, as well for persons above ground as the miners. The practice of taking out all the coal supports and letting down the roof and the country, has become an alarming affair, filling the public mind with horror. Think of houses with women and children sinking into coal pits, and the inmates burning to death! Wagons and horses swallowed up on the public highways! Plowmen in the fields d'sappearing, and the public at large afraid to go from house to house for fear or being swallowed up alive! Does not this state of affairs call for legislative enactments? Well might Governor Geary say that his hair stood on end at the report of his Commissioners in the anthracite coal regions, and his words prove conclusively his feeling at the time. "A still more recent casualty suggests another amendment to the act reported by the Governor, viz: the practice of robbing the supporting columns, the roofs of the mines, the overlaying surfaces of which are in some places covered with houses. We want to know something the destruction of many thousands of dollars' worth of property, as at Scranton, Hyde Park and Wilkesbarre. It should, therefore, be provided that no mining of coal supports without supplying their places with substantial masonry or something equivalent.

Now, in many counties in Western Pennsylvania may be said to be one entire bituminous coal bed, of the nine feet of cooking coal, and coal for all trade combined, in second in quality to any like coal in the world. Beside this nine feet bed of coal, three other beds or layers of coal run over nearly all of the nine feet—coal of the best quality, good quality for burning in grates; for steam engines; for burning lime, and for gas, which is the use of vast important works in the country at large. Besides this, the bituminous coal region of Pennsylvania may be said to be one of the best sections of country in the State. Now is it reasonable to suppose that an intelligent people will stand still and allow coal miners, under any pretext, to undermine and let down so rich a country as this, to ruin and destruction of life and property? No. The Legislature of Pennsylvania will not stand quietly by and permit such destruction without an effort. Humanity and Christianity forbids such inhumanity. The mining of coal has apparently been so slow a process, and only a small proportion of the country is yet affected by mining, may account for a lack of action on the part of sections not acquainted with results. But the time is coming when this matter will be sprung on the great coal regions, and let them prepare in time. The increased quantity of coal required to supply our trade, and the fact that the United States is destined to be the great iron field of the world, and that Western Pennsylvania is to be the giant in trade, and the city of Pittsburgh the great mart of the world, is sufficient to inspire action. Besides, the day is dawning when the great national marriage is to take place between the Western waters and the Atlantic ocean, by the trans-Allegheny canal. This project can't fail. It is a national project. It is one that may be said to be bequeathed by Washington to the Union. Washington. It was the study of his youth when he followed the buffalo trail from the Cumberland valley to Pittsburgh. His thoughtful mind predicted it, and he never forgot it, whilst he was making a nation free with his sword; and it may be said to be his pet measure during life; and now, as he lies there spared a few years more, the work would have been complete ere this. As it is, the great American mind will give it support, and the electrifying name of Washington in the cause will make it a success. More, it is truly what Washington said—a national work. Millions of people, with more than five thousand miles of river navigation demand it. The great seaboard demands it; the great commercial interest demands it. Then, when this great work is completed, it will open up a region, as well for peaceful floodgate of trade, particularly coal and coke. When the coal miners come flocking to this region as they will, towns will

VETO OF THE FINANCE BILL.

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT GRANT.

The Bill Analyzed and Discussed.

Frank Statement of Reasons for Disapproval.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 22.—The following is the President's veto message:

To the Senate of the United States:

Herewith I return Senate bill Number 617, entitled "An act to fix the amount of United States notes and the circulation of national banks, and for other purposes," without my approval. In doing so I must express my regret at not being able to give my assent to a measure which has received the sanction of a majority of legislators chosen by the people to make laws for their guidance, and I have most anxiously sought to find sufficient arguments to justify such assent, but unsuccessfully.

QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE BILL.

Practically it is a question whether the measure under discussion would give an additional dollar to irredeemable paper currency of the country or not, and whether by requiring three-fourths of the reserves to be retained by banks and prohibiting circulation to be received on the balance, it might not prove a contraction. But the fact cannot be concealed that, theoretically, the bill increases the paper circulation one hundred millions of dollars, less only the amount of reserve retained from circulation by the provisions of the second section. The measure has been supported on the theory that it would relieve the present circulation; it is a fair inference, therefore, that, if in practice the measure should fail to create the abundance of circulation expected of it, the friends of the measure, particularly those out of Congress, would change for such inflation as would give the expected relief.

REASONS FOR THE VETO.

The theory, in my belief, is a departure from the true principles of finance, national interest, national obligations to creditors, Congressional promises, party pledges on the part of both political parties, and the personal views and promises made by me in every annual message sent to Congress and in each inaugural address.

EXTRACT FROM FORMER MESSAGE.

In my annual message to Congress, in December, 1865, the following appears:

"Among the evils growing out of the rebellion and not yet referred to, is that of an irredeemable currency. It is an evil which I hope will receive your most earnest attention. It is a duty, and one of the highest duties of the government, to secure to the citizen a medium of exchange of fixed, unvarying value. This implies a return to a specie basis, and the substitute for it can be devised. It should be commenced now and reached at the earliest practical moment, consistent with a fair regard to the interest of the debtor class. Immediate return to specie payments would, perhaps, be desirable. It would compel the debtor class to pay, beyond their contracts, the premium on gold at the date of their purchase, and would bring bankruptcy and ruin to thousands. Fluctuations, however, in the paper value of the measure of all values—gold—is detrimental to the interest of the business community. The man of business an involuntary gambler; for, in all sales where future payment is to be made, both parties speculate as to what will be the value of the currency to be paid and received. I earnestly recommend to you, then, such legislation as will insure a gradual return to specie payment and put an immediate stop to fluctuations in the value of the currency."

CONTRACTION RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE.

I still adhere to the views expressed. As early as December 4, 1865, the House of Representatives passed a resolution, by a vote of 144 years to 6 nays, concurring in the views of the Secretary of the Treasury in relation to the necessity of a contraction of the currency, with a view to an early resumption of specie payment as the business interests of the country will permit, and pledging co-operative action to this, and as speedily as possible.

FIRST ACT OF FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

The first act passed by the Forty-first Congress, on the 18th day of March, 1869, was as follows:

"An Act to strengthen the public credit of the United States:

"Be it Enacted, &c., That, in order to remove any doubt as to the purpose of the government to discharge all its obligations to the public creditors, and to settle conflicting questions and interpretations of the law by virtue of which such obligations have been contracted, it is hereby provided and declared that the faith of the United States is solemnly pledged to the payment in coin, or its equivalent, of all the obligations of the United States and of all the interest-bearing obligations, except where the law under which authorizing the issue of any such obligations has expressly provided that the same may be paid in lawful money or other currency than gold and silver; but none of the said interest-bearing obligations not already due shall be redeemed or paid before maturity, unless at such times as the United States notes shall be convertible into coin at the option of the holders, or unless at such time bonds of the United States, bearing a lower rate of interest than the bonds to be redeemed, can be sold at par in coin; and the United States solemnly pledges its faith to make provision at the earliest practicable period for the redemption of the United States notes in coin."

FAITH OF THE COUNTRY PLEDGED.

This act still remains as a continuing pledge of the United States to make provision at the earliest practicable moment for the redemption of the United States notes in coin.

THE FORTY-FOUR MILLION RESERVE.

A declaration contained in the act of June 30, 1864, creates a reserve to the total amount of United States notes, issued or to be issued, should never exceed four hundred millions of dollars. The amount in actual circulation was actually reduced to three hundred and fifty-six millions of dollars, at which point Congress passed the act of February 4, 1868, suspending the further reduction of the currency. The forty-four millions have ever been regarded as a reserve, to be used only in case of an emergency such as has occurred on several occasions, and must occur when, from any cause, the revenues suddenly fall below the expenditures; and such a reserve is necessary, because the fractional currency, amounting to fifty millions, is redeemable in coin.

REDEMPTION IN GOLD.

It may be said that such a return of fractional currency for redemption is impossible, but let steps be taken for a return to a specie basis, and it will be found that silver will take the place of fractional currency as rapidly as it can be supplied. When then the premium on gold reaches a sufficiently low point, with the amount of United States notes to be issued permanently within narrow limits, and the Treasury so strengthened as to be able to redeem them in coin on demand, it will then be safe to inaugurate a system of free banking, with such provisions as to make compulsory the redemption of circulating notes of banks in coin or United States notes themselves, redeemable in, and made equivalent to coin.

THE WAY TO PEER BANKING.

As a measure of preparation to prepare banking, or for placing the government in a condition to redeem its notes in coin at the earliest practicable moment, the coin in the country should be increased so as to pay the current interest, and provide for the sinking fund required by law and also a surplus to be retained in the Treasury in gold. I am not a believer in any artificial method of making money equal to coin, when coin is not owned or held ready to redeem the promise to pay; for paper money is nothing more than a promise to pay, and is valuable exactly in proportion to the amount of coin it can be converted into. While coin is not used as a circulating medium, a currency of the finest is not convertible into it at par, it becomes an article of commerce as much as any other property. The surplus will seek a foreign market, as will any other surplus.

THE BALANCE OF TRADE

has nothing to do with the question. The duties on imports, being required in coin, create a limited demand for gold, only large enough to satisfy that demand remains in the country. To increase this supply, I would not advise by the government hoarding through the means above given out, possibly, by requiring the national banks to aid.

UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF CIRCULATION.

It is claimed by the advocates of the measure herewith returned, that there is an unequal distribution of the banking capital of the country. I was disposed to give great weight to this view of the question at first, but on reflection it will be remembered that there still remains four millions of dollars of authorized bank note circulation assigned to States having less than their quota, not yet taken. In addition to this the States having less than their quota of bank circulation, have the option of twenty-five millions more, to be taken from those States having more than their proportion. When this is all taken up, or when specie payments are fully restored, or are in rapid process of restoration, will be the time to consider the question of more currency.

(Signed) U. S. GRANT.
EXECUTIVE MANSION, April 22, 1874.

OBITUARY.

Hon. Alexander P. Callow.

The death of the Hon. Alexander P. Callow, Mayor of Allegheny City, was announced on Saturday morning, although not entirely unexpected, caused a wide-spread feeling of sorrow and regret. He died at his residence on Montgomery avenue, at six o'clock Saturday morning, after an illness of about four months. The deceased was born in Shaler township, Allegheny county, in 1831, and was consequently in the prime of life when stricken down by disease. He commenced life as a newsboy. His parents settled in Allegheny when he was quite young. He next took a situation with Kennedy & Bro., job printers, and completed his trade with Shryock & McMillin. He made press-work a specialty, thoroughly mastering the knowledge of that department. Wishing to "see the world," after completing his apprenticeship, he visited New York city, and obtained a situation with Harper Brothers. While employed here, he had the honor of superintending the first issue of *Harper's Weekly*. When he returned to the city, he and his brother, Hiram P., purchased the job office of Jno. T. Shryock, which they conducted for some time, after which the deceased filled the position of pressman in the book house of Osgood & Co. and also in the COMMERCIAL establishment.

When the war broke out the deceased enlisted in Company F, "Old Thirteenth," Col. Rowley's regiment, and by reason of gallantry promoted to Sergeant Major of the regiment. After the discharge of the three months men he re-enlisted as a private in the One Hundred and Second, still better known as the "Old Thirteenth," and was promoted to the position of adjutant. He made a splendid war record, and remained with his regiment until a severe wound in the thigh, received during the battle battle of the Wilderness, compelled him to leave the army.

When he had returned home, he resumed his occupation as pressman, but soon found that it would be impossible for him to follow it, crippled condition, to continue in the press room. He then turned his attention to politics, and made an unsuccessful canvass for Controller in 1869; however, he was again a candidate, and was elected. During his two years' term he had copied, the charter of the city was amended by the Legislature, and the term was extended to three years. Colonel Callow announced himself as a candidate for re-election and notwithstanding the spirited contest which ensued he received a majority. He was re-elected, and his term would not have expired until next January or February.

The deceased was a warm and generous friend, kind and affable in his disposition, and was a great favorite among the soldiers and soldier politicians. His political success was attributable to the soldier element, and he preserved their support in that he had proven himself a brave officer and a true patriot.

The old army wound never completely healed up, and some two years ago the deceased had four ribs fractured in an accident which happened to a train near Conemaugh, on the Pennsylvania Railroad. The old wound re-opened, and with the new trouble, a complication of diseases developed. Dr. Thorn and Dr. Pollock, the attending physicians, authorized the opinion that one or the other must succumbed to some extent by a broken rib. The last time the deceased was out of the house was some three weeks since, when he attended the funeral of a friend.

Mr. Callow leaves a wife and four children, and a mother and sister—the two latter residing in Missouri.

The City Councils, the various military organizations, and other associations with which the deceased was identified have taken favorable action in honor of his memory, which will be found elsewhere noted.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, April 22, 1874.

Trade in most departments shows a little more animation, although the conditions are in the main against activity, the spring being remarkably backward and the long continued suspense over the currency problem being unrelieved. Our Wood street dry goods houses report their sales considerably below the average of favorable seasons, notwithstanding a pretty general reduction in prices, and most manufactured articles move slowly.

Now that Congress has acted on the currency question, the prophesies of those in favor of more greenbacks have not come true. We were told that if Congress would only take action on the currency, stocks would go up, and there would be a general revival of business; instead, stocks have gone down, and the bulls of last week have turned bears this. That business will be favorably affected by having some settled policy, there can be no doubt; yet there is no guarantee but that Congress may pass some new financial law before the close of the session which will increase the powers granted by the present law or nullify them altogether.

Business men have found the panic to have been more serious in its consequences than had been apprehended. There is still a large amount of postponed indebtedness to be settled; still a disposition to curtail credits to the weaker class of firms, until they have served a period of probation, and demonstrated that they were not vitally injured; there is a serious prostration of those branches of business dependent upon railroad construction and a large amount of labor unemployed, and still more important, there is a general economy in private and public expenditures, which lessens the demand for a wide class of products.

It is encouraging to state that our furnaces are all in blast, and the furnacemen driving trade with energy. In the Shenango valley most of the furnaces are in blast, although some of them must soon blow out if there is not a decline in ore or an advance in metal. At present prices it is claimed there is no profit in manufacturing.

Our New York correspondent gives the following account of the panic on the 20th:

"For the day at least the excitement of the street has been turned away from the discussion of Washington possibilities, the Stock Exchange directly and indirectly monopolizes interest from local causes of disturbance to condone for the smallness of news from the capital. For a long time the small fancy of the stock list knew no bounds. The buoyancy remarkably steady, because controlled by a strong clique, which was the main motive power in the price. The firm operating the stock for the pool, at the beginning of business to-day, showed a tendency to favor lower prices, and later one car at 81c, and this morning a few were sold at the same quotation, with a tent "under the rule." It transpires that a large amount of this stock was "turned" at 28—that is, sold at that price for cash and bought back at a stipulated advance, the delivery to be made 30 or 60 days from date—a transaction a favorite form in this market of carrying stocks. On contracts of this kind, the buyer can feel that he is entitled to upon the day when cash deposits whenever the market price of the stock falls below the price at which the "turn" was made. The stock this morning opened at 30½, sold at 30¾, and soon fell to 22, and later to 23. Those carrying the stock at once demanded additional margins, and up to the close of business to-night the matter is yet in an unsettled condition. Rumors, though set afloat, are endeavoring to be made. Given so serious a trouble existing as this, and the minds of operators are so full of uneasiness and alarm, it was but a momentary work to give the impression a weak and unsupported existance. The street was filled with all sorts of rumors, from which it is impossible for me to deem it necessary to mention, and these so filled the minds of holders with alarm, that they were not slow to throw over their stock holdings, preferring to suffer the present loss on them to incurring the more risky one that, after a decline of 1½ to 2½ per cent., a sharp buying movement gave a reaction to the market, but it closed unsettled. Indeed, the manner of conduct pursued to-day by the bears, foreshadowed an apparent belief that the President will sign the Senate bill, and that the Comptroller of the Currency will at once issue the necessary orders to the banks, in the full fillment of which, the amount of money withdrawn from this center will seriously affect money, and make times close."

—The following table shows the prices of gold, government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Luther S. Kauffman, broker, 96 Fourth avenue:

THE FORTY-FOUR MILLION RESERVE.

April 22, 1874.	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	12:30 M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:00 P. M.
Gold	113¾	113¾	113¾	113¾	113¾	113¾
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup.	121¼	121¼				121⅝
U. S. 5-20's, 1865	120	120				120
U. S. 5-20's, 1867	120	120				120
U. S. 5-20's, 1868, new	119½	119½				119½
U. S. 5-20's, 1867	120½	120½				120½
U. S. 5-20's, 1868	120½	120½				120½
U. S. 10-40's	114¾	114¾				114¾
U. S. 10-40's, coupon	114¾	114¾				114¾
Currency 6's	116¾	116¾				116¾
Central Pacific	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾	42⅛
Atlantic & Pacific pref						98
Western Union Tel.	71¾	71¾	72⅝	73	72⅝	73
Panama		101				107
Wells, Fargo & Co.	40¾	41⅛	41¾	42⅛	41¾	42⅛
Adams Express		98				98½
United States Express		67				67
American Express		61				61½
Illinois Central	96	96¼	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾
New York Central	98	97¾	98¾	98¾	98¾	98¾
Erie	34¾	34¾	34¾	34¾	34¾	34¾
Michigan Central	93¾	93¾				93¾
Michigan Southern	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾
Illinois Central	104					100
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	87¾	87¾				87¾
Chicago & Northw'n	47¾	47¾	48⅝	48¾	47¾	48
Do. preferred	65¾	65¾				65¾
Rock Island	99¾	99¾	99¾	100	99¾	99¾
St. Paul	39	39	39	39	39	39¼
Do. preferred	87	87				87
Wabash	42	42¼	42¾	43⅛	42⅝	42⅞
Ft. W. & C.	93	93				93
Fort Wayne	93¾	93¾				93¾
Ohio & Mississippi	24⅜	24¾	24¾	24¾	24¾	24¾
Union Pacific	33¾	33¾	34	34¾	34¾	34⅝
Chicago & Alton	100					
Hannibal & St. Joe						29
Boston, Hart'd & Erie						
Panama		126½				
Tennessee State bonds		87				84
Do. new		70¾				70¾
South Carolina, July		65				
Missouri 6's						94¾

—Robinson & Co., bankers, Fourth avenue, furnish the following report of active stocks at the Philadelphia Board:

Pennsylvania Railroad Company	51½
Pennsylvania scrip	56½
Sterling	56½
United Companies of New Jersey	121½
Oil Creek	59½
Lehigh Valley	60¾
Allegheny Valley Railroad 7-30s	92
Philadelphia & Erie preferred	43
Empire Transportation Company	52¾
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis	78–68

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA COMMERCIAL, }
ST. PAUL, April 22, 1874. }

The general aspect of business is favorable, as in nearly all branches of trade there is a general tendency toward the long looked for revival of business, which has been hoped for some time past. Still it is said that the full effect of that revival of trade has not yet been felt. We are, however, certainly working toward the renewal of a brisk and prosperous trade, and it is not too much to hope that before many days are past, the general improvement and revival of trade, so long expected, will have been realized.

The rise in flour seems to have ceased for the present, although trade is fairly active. There are no changes in this department from our quotations of yesterday. In grain, while there is a dull and unsettled quotations, corn, oats and rye have shown a rapidly upward tendency, with an active demand fully up to the supply.

In groceries there is little change. Business seems to be good, and the wholesale houses generally are full of trade, and present an active and prosperous appearance.

There is a tendency to an advance in some grades of cheese, and the exhaustion of last year's supply, which took place in this city last February, and which has been drawn from the East, causes a very active demand, which has to be met by the receipts of new-made cheese. Butter, under the effect of the free receipts of the past few days, shows a down ward tendency. In this connection we would urge upon the country people, who will soon be forwarding their supply of spring butter, that they should put up their butter in small packages (in rolls if possible) as first-class butter in that shape always sells a much more ready sale.

The falling are the receipts of the leading articles of produce since our last:

Flour, bbls	2,740
Cheese, pkgs	30
Barley, sacks	340
Oats, sacks	2,633
Potatoes, bush	74

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce received for the past two weeks.

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	9,367	10,494	19,861
Apples, bbls	938	633	1,571
Cheese, lbs	847	657	1,504
Corn, sacks	4,078	2,753	6,831
Wheat, sacks	1,125	1,165	2,290
Barley, sacks	2,383	5,845	8,228
Rye, sacks		797	797
Oats, sacks	6,399	6,857	13,256
Butter, pkgs	244	244	488
Bacon, pcs	4,862		4,862
Bacon, lbs	477	670	1,147

Below we give the wholesale rates of the markets unless special mention is made to the contrary:

BAGS—Scarce. We quote $6 50 for choice; common brands at lower rates.

ASHES—No change in prices. Soda, refined, 5½c; second sorts, 4½@4¾c; crude, 4c; arsenic 85c; potash 9c; pearls 10c.

ALE—$8 per bbl; XX $9 ₱ bbl; India Ale $10 00 ₱ bbl; Stag Ale, in kilderkins of 22 gals, $22 70@23 24; bbls 34 gals $16 85@17 00; hhds, do, 60@ 50@65 00; in cases, 4 doz bottles, $20 75. Wm. Younger's India pale ale, in cases of 8 doz bottles, $5 00 ₱ case; Wm. Younger's sparkling ale, $6 00 ₱ doz; Guinness's stouts, bottled by A. Burke, $5 00 ₱ doz; Caswell, Hazard & Co.'s ginger ale, $2 25 ₱ doz; Caswell, Hazard & Co.'s ginger ale, $1 75 ₱ doz.

APPLE BUTTER—Prime 80c ₱ gal; fair to good 70c.

BACON AND PROVISIONS—We note alterations in prices consisting of a full advance of about one half a cent. Following are the ruling prices: Plain sugar cured hams, extra sugar cured 13½c; hams, extra sugar cured, 14c; shoulders, extra sugar cured, 9½c; breakfast bacon, 12½c; dried beef, extra, sugar cured, do, 16½c; beef tongues, do, ₱ doz $7 00; bacon shoulders, ₱ ₱, 8½c; clear sides, do, 10c; short ribbed sides, do, 10½c; clear sides, do, 11c; mess pork, ₱ bbl $18 50; prime leaf lard, in tierces, do, 11c; do, for summer use, in tierces, do, 11½c; ½ bbls, do, 11¾c; buckets, do, 12¼c; in 5-lb pails, do, 13½c; in 3-lb pails, do, 14½c; in 5-lb pails, do, 14½c; in 3-lb pails, do, 14c; ham sausage ₱ ₱, 10c.

BUTTER—Receipts have been free for the past few days. Prices are tending downward. We quote at 30@35c; most sales in lots are at 30@ 32c for good to prime. As spring comes on and country shippers send in their stock of grass butter, we look for it to retail at 25c; rolls or small packages, as in that form it is much more likely to meet with a ready sale.

BEANS—Prime white may be had at $2 25@2 30 ₱ bush, fair to good $2 00@2 20.

BROOMS—No. 2 $2 ₱ doz; No. 3, $3 50 ₱ doz; No. 4, $4 ₱ doz; No. 5, $4 25 ₱ doz; carpet brooms, $3 00 ₱ doz; toy brooms and whisks, $1 50@2 00. In a jobbing way from store, 25@ 50c ₱ dozen additional.

BANNER BAKING POWDER.—We are reported sales 88 follows—¼ ₱ cans $1 60 per dozen; ½ ₱ cans $3 00; ₱ ₱ cans $5 50; 5 ₱ cans $27 00; 10 ₱ cans, boxes, $40 00.

CARBON OIL—We quote from store 14½c; f. o. b., cars at works 12½c per gallon.

COTTON GOODS.—Penn Mill 4, No. 1, 4-4 sheeting at 11c; Nanatook 10½c; Pittsburgh Family 10c; Juniata R. fine, 9½c; Penn Mill 2 bushings 35c; do 2¼, 42c; white cotton chain 31c; do colored 33c; cotton batting 16c; cotton twine 35c.

COUNTRY BACON—Hams 9½@10½c ₱ ₱; clear sides 9@9½c ribbed sides 8½@9c; shoulders 7@ 7½c. Country lard 9@10c ₱ ₱.

CRANBERRIES—Choice varieties $17 00@18 00 ₱ barrel, or $6 00 ₱ crate.

CANNED GOODS.—Trade reported very active. 2 ₱ tomatoes ₱ doz, $2 25; 3 ₱ peaches ₱ doz $3 30; 2 ₱ peaches ₱ doz $2 35; 3 ₱ pie peaches ₱ doz $2 25; Winslow's corn, ₱ doz $2 75; Baltimore corn ₱ doz $2 00; 1 ₱ Cove oysters $1 25; 2 ₱ Cove oysters $2 25; medium pickles ₱ bbl $11 00; medium pickles, ₱ half bbl $6; small do ₱ bbl $10 00; Boston mixed pickles ₱ bbl $15 00; Boston mixed, pickles ₱ half bbl $8 00.

CHEESE—The old stock in Ohio and New York cheese is exhausted. New Ohio is arriving in small lots, and selling at 16@16c; New York factory, 15½@16c. Shipments to the country are very light, and advices from the east represent the stock of old as very nearly exhausted.

CONCENTRATED LYE—There is a fair demand, with sales of four dozen packages at $7 50@ 8 00.

CRACKERS—Lemon biscuit at 11¼c; ginger snaps 12½c; oyster crackers 7c; soda crackers 8½c; sugar do 9½c; butter crackers 7c; water crackers 7½c ₱ ₱.

CEMENT—Louisville hydraulic cement $2 00@ 2 25 ₱ bbl; Phenix hydraulic cement $2 25 ₱ bbl; Rosedale cement $3 50@4; Youghiogheny $1 50@2 00.

DRIED FRUIT—We are reported sales apples at 9@11c ₱ ₱; peaches, mixed, 11@ 12c; new do, 13@14c; blackberries 16@17c.

EGGS—The receipts of eggs have not been able to keep down the prices; on the contrary, the market remains firm at 17@18c with some holders adhering very strictly to the latter figure.

FISH—Sales No. 1 extra mess mackerel, $22 No. 1 mess, extra, $21; shore mackerel $23; extra No. 1 bay mackerel $19 00; No. 1 bay mackerel $17 00; extra No. 2 mackerel $17 00; No. 2 bay mackerel are held at $16 ₱ bbl. No. 3 mackerel are out of market. Georges codfish $8 00@8 50 ₱ bbl; medium do $6 00. Bloaters 1¼ boxes 85c, whole boxes $1 70. Lake trout $7 00@7 50; white fish $8 00@8 50; No. 1 trout $6 50; red herring, scales, 50c ₱ box; No. 1, 35c ₱ box.

FLOUR—Unchanged. We quote: St. Louis $9 00@9 25 ₱ wheat $7 00@7 50; Wisconsin $6 75@7 00. Rye bbl; red winter wheat $8 00; Minnesota spring flour $8 50@9 ₱ bbl.

GROCERIES—Business is active and an increased trade is generally reported. Prices are not changed except in green coffees, prices of which we note below:

Green Coffees—Fair to choice 28c; choice 27c; prime 26c; good 25c; Java 36c.

Roasted Coffees—Roasted Rio coffee in packages, in bulk, generally in rule at 22c ₱ ₱. Roasted Java, in bulk, is quoted at 40c ₱ ₱.

Sugars—Standard extra A, 10½c; Standard B, 10¼c; Standard A, 10¼c; Standard hards, 11¼c. Franklin No. 2, extra, 9¾c; American extra C, 9c.

Teas—Young Hyson 50@84 10 ₱ ₱; Gunpowder 50@84 25; Imperial 50@84 25; Japan 50@85; Oolong 25@85c ₱ ₱; fancy $1 ₱ ₱; Souchong 25@85c ₱ ₱.

Molasses—Strictly prime New Orleans 75c; choice 80c, and scarce; old or p 65@70c, and little in market.

Syrups—Extra white drips 70c; sugar drips 60c; lower grades 45@50c, as to quality.

Rice—Choice Carolina 9@9½c; Patna 8@8¼c; Rangoon 8c.

GRAIN—The principal feature in the grain market is the upward tendency in oats, corn and rye. Wheat and barley prices are not changed; white sells at $1 60@1 65; red winter at $1 50@1 55. Barley in sale of one car lot at the latter figure. Shelled corn has had a rapid rise with a sharp demand. Sales were made yesterday at advance of three cents, and later one car at 81c, and this morning a few were sold at the same quotation, with a tent "under the rule." It transpires that a large amount of this stock was "turned" at 28—that is, sold at that price for cash and bought back at a stipulated advance, the delivery to be made 30 or 60 days from date—a transaction a favorite form in this market of carrying stocks. On contracts of this kind, the buyer can feel that he is entitled to upon the day when cash deposits whenever the market price of the stock falls below the price at which the "turn" was made. The stock this morning opened at 30½, sold at 30¾, and soon fell to 22, and later to 23. Those carrying the stock at once demanded additional margins, and up to the close of business to-night the matter is yet in an unsettled condition. Rumors, though set afloat, are endeavoring to be made. Given so serious a trouble existing as this, and the minds of operators are so full of uneasiness and alarm, it was but a momentary work to give the impression a weak and unsupported existance. The street was filled with all sorts of rumors, from which it is impossible for me to deem it necessary to mention, and these so filled the minds of holders with alarm, that they were not slow to throw over their stock holdings, preferring to suffer the present loss on them to incurring the more risky one that, after a decline of 1½ to 2½ per cent., a sharp buying movement gave a reaction to the market, but it closed unsettled. Indeed, the manner of conduct pursued to-day by the bears, foreshadowed an apparent belief that the President will sign the Senate bill, and that the Comptroller of the Currency will at once issue the necessary orders to the banks, in the full fillment of which, the amount of money withdrawn from this center will seriously affect money, and make times close."

—The following table shows the prices of gold, government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Luther S. Kauffman, broker, 96 Fourth avenue:

THE FORTY-FOUR MILLION RESERVE.

April 22, 1874.	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	12:30 M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:00 P. M.
Gold	113¾	113¾	113¾	113¾	113¾	113¾
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup.	121¼	121¼				121⅝
U. S. 5-20's, 1865	120	120				120
U. S. 5-20's, 1867	120	120				120
U. S. 5-20's, 1868, new	119½	119½				119½
U. S. 5-20's, 1867	120½	120½				120½
U. S. 5-20's, 1868	120½	120½				120½
U. S. 10-40's	114¾	114¾				114¾
U. S. 10-40's, coupon	114¾	114¾				114¾
Currency 6's	116¾	116¾				116¾
Central Pacific	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾	42⅛
Atlantic & Pacific pref						98
Western Union Tel.	71¾	71¾	72⅝	73	72⅝	73
Panama		101				107
Wells, Fargo & Co.	40¾	41⅛	41¾	42⅛	41¾	42⅛
Adams Express		98				98½
United States Express		67				67
American Express		61				61½
Illinois Central	96	96¼	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾
New York Central	98	97¾	98¾	98¾	98¾	98¾
Erie	34¾	34¾	34¾	34¾	34¾	34¾
Michigan Central	93¾	93¾				93¾
Michigan Southern	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾
Illinois Central	104					100
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	87¾	87¾				87¾
Chicago & Northw'n	47¾	47¾	48⅝	48¾	47¾	48
Do. preferred	65¾	65¾				65¾
Rock Island	99¾	99¾	99¾	100	99¾	99¾
St. Paul	39	39	39	39	39	39¼
Do. preferred	87	87				87
Wabash	42	42¼	42¾	43⅛	42⅝	42⅞
Ft. W. & C.	93	93				93
Fort Wayne	93¾	93¾				93¾
Ohio & Mississippi	24⅜	24¾	24¾	24¾	24¾	24¾
Union Pacific	33¾	33¾	34	34¾	34¾	34⅝
Chicago & Alton	100					
Hannibal & St. Joe						29
Boston, Hart'd & Erie						
Panama		126½				
Tennessee State bonds		87				84
Do. new		70¾				70¾
South Carolina, July		65				
Missouri 6's						94¾

COAL MARKETS.

LOUISVILLE.

April 21.—We quote Pittsburgh at 14c retail and 10c by the large load at depot; Indiana and Peacock Pomeroy at 13c; Kentucky at 11@13c per bush retail, and anthracite at $10 00@10 50 ₱ ton.

CINCINNATI.

April 21.—A considerable amount reached the cities during the week, but the trade has been sold, and prices are unchanged. We quote Ohio river 8c and Pittsburgh 10c per bushel afloat. The rates delivered to consumers are 12c per bushel for Ohio river, 13c for Raymond City, 14c for Pittsburgh, and 24c for Kanawha cannel.

Toledo Market.

TOLEDO, April 22.—Flour dull and unchanged. Wheat dull and declined; No. 1 white Michigan $1 57; extra do $1 64; No. 2 Lake Shore red $1 48. Corn a shade better; high mixed 74c, selling last half May 73¾c; old 76c; low mixed 72½c; no grade 71½c; damaged 71c. Oats dull and prices nominal.

Philadelphia Market.

PHILADELPHIA, April 22.—Flour firm; superfine $5 00@5 50. Wheat dull; red $1 60@1 65. Rye firm at 93@94 c. Corn quiet; yellow 70c, selling at 69@69c. Oats weak at 63@65c. Provisions firm. Pork $17 37½@17 50. Bacon shoulders 6¾@7¼c. Lard held 10¼@11c. Whisky quiet at 98c.

Louisville Market.

LOUISVILLE, April 22.—Cotton, flour and grain quiet and unchanged. Provisions firmer. Pork $17 00. Bulk shoulders 6½c; clear ribsides for clear 8¾@9c. Bacon shoulders 7½c; sides 9¾@10c. Sugar cured hams 12½@13½c. Lard firmer; tierce 10¾@10½c; keg 10¾@11c. Whisky 96c.

HOP MARKETS.

NEW YORK.

April 15.—The position of the market is essentially the same. The trade is extremely dull and values more or less nominal. Supplies continue to arrive, but most of it is trashy. Prime hops will command 32c, but this is the extreme price, and as there are only a few prime lots offering, holders ask this price. A few days of fine weather would, it is thought, improve the demand very much, as brewers are generally out of stock and merely buying from them for immediate wants. Quotations cover the extreme prices. We quote:

New York, good to prime, 1873	28@30 c
New York, fair to good, 1873	25@28 c
New York, fair to good, 1872	20@30 c
Yearlings	20@25 c
Belgians	20@25 c
English	25@30 c
Californian	25@28 c
Old stock	8@12 c

The following are the exports of hops:

	Bales.
Past week	
Since January 1	182
Same time 1873	4,293

Bulletin.

April 18.—The demand continues very light and prices are irregular, still favoring buyers; the nominal quotations are 25@30c for good to choice domestic, 19@23c for lower grades, 18@ 20c for 1872, Bavarian 23@30c, and English 28@29c. Mr. Emmet Wells reports the

	Bales.
Domestic receipts for the week	267
Total receipts since September 1, 1873	19,794
Total receipts for same period in 1872	21,515
Total imports since September 1, 1873	13,149
Total imports for same period, 1872	20,159

PHILADELPHIA.

April 18.—Hops continue depressed, selling only in small lots as wanted by brewers for immediate use, with the inquiry confined to prime grades, which are difficult to obtain at this or neighboring markets. Sales cover about 150 bales. Quotations range as follows:

Americans, 1873's, good to choice	27@32c
Americans, 1873's, low to fair	20@26c
Americans, olds and yearlings	8@17c
Bavarians, 1873's	25@30c
English	30@32c
Californians	30@37c

COAL MARKETS.

LOUISVILLE.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1874.

THE Supreme Court of the United States, in a case involving that point, has just rendered a decision that a discharge under the Bankrupt act does not bar a debt due the United States. This conclusion is sustained by the uniform construction of similar legislation in this country and in England.

THE exports, exclusive of specie, from the port of New York for the week ending April 14, amounted to $5,199,462, against $5,421,753 for the corresponding week of 1873. The total exports from the beginning of the year to that date were $78,904,438, against $74,820,296 for the corresponding period of last year.

PROF. SWING, a Presbyterian clergyman of Chicago, has been formally arraigned before an ecclesiastical tribunal to answer a charge containing twenty-four specific accusations of heretical teaching; one of them being unsoundness with regard to the doctrine of total depravity—a species of heterodoxy which, in view of the fact that he has resided in Chicago for quite a number of years, seems absolutely unaccountable.

THE Legislature of North Carolina has at least performed one good act. It has just passed a law which imprisons for five years "any person who manufactures, sells or deals in spirituous liquors as a drink, of any name or kind, containing foreign properties or ingredients poisonous to the system." Every other State in the Union would do excellently well to enact a similar statute, and enforce it with the most thorough impartiality and rigor.

SINCE the adoption of the Massachusetts State Constitution, in 1780, there have been at least five instances in which the Lieutenant Governor of the State has succeeded to the Gubernatorial chair, by the death or resignation of the Governor. The first was in 1793, wh a Governor HANCOCK died, and was succeeded by Lieutenant Governor SAMUEL ADAMS, and the last is the succession of Lieutenant Governor TALBOT by the election of Governor WASHBURNE to the United States Senate.

FROM time immemorial there have been depravity and decay, but there have also been integrity and advance. After all, it is perhaps doubtful whether the present age is very much worse than its predecessors. In 1782, it seems, JAMES M. VARNUM wrote to General WASHINGTON that the majority of the Rhode Island General Assembly were licentious men, destitute of education, and void of principle. Really, when one comes to think how common, for centuries, has been the cant of corruption, it seems strange that the world should have made any pfogress at all.

THE Richmond, Va., *Dispatch* makes an important announcement in regard to iron and coal operations on the line of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, to the effect that a company of English capitalists have just purchased what is known as the "Buffalo Gap Furnace," and that they will at once proceed to enlarge and add to the machinery now on the premises, and also prepare for the manufacture of steel rails, either by the BESSEMER or SIEMENS process. They propose to expend four hundred thousand dollars, beside the purchase money, in improved and additional machinery.

THE imports, exclusive of specie, at the port of New York, for the week ending last Saturday, amounted to $9,398,815, against $12,346,614 for the corresponding week last year. The total imports from all ports into the beginning of the year have been $130,721,356 against $145,813,489 for the corresponding period of last year. The heavy increase in the dry goods imports at New York the week before last, was more than offset by a corresponding decrease last week, the amount entered being only $1,728,635, against $3,060,909 for the week before, $3,300,999 for the corresponding week last year, and $3,063,711 in 1872.

THE movement of the cotton crop from the interior to the seaboard is nearly completed. The comparative statement for last week and the corresponding week last year shows—net receipts at all ports last week, 39,742 bales, against 55,912 last year; total receipts to last Saturday, 3,491,917, against 3,154,974; exports for the week, 73,480, against 76,786; total exports to date, 2,950,111, against 2,888,289; stock at all our ports, 510,238, against 484,275; stock at all our interior towns, 80,062, against 89,421; at Liverpool, 800,000, against 894,000; American cotton afloat for Great Britain, 252,000, against 208,000 for last year.

AT length the Judiciary Committee has finally settled the only remaining point in the controversy in regard to the Geneva award. The insurance companies have been excluded in all cases except where they can show by their books an excess of losses over their receipts from war premiums. The bill will come up formally before the House to-morrow or the day after, and there is now ground for hope that we shall soon have a definite settlement of the whole question. It is not thought that the total amount of claims from insurance companies which can come under the decision mentioned will exceed one hundred thousand dollars.

How touching it is—the jealous vigilance with which your average rural Democrat, uncontaminated by the arts and wiles of metropolitan politics, guards his country's fair fame. At a Democratic county convention in Indiana, the other day, a resolution was unanimously passed, demanding the immediate and unconditional repeal of the salary-grab law, and announcing the stern refusal of the delegates to vote for any man who was not in favor of such repeal. It is perhaps impossible to overrate honesty like this—particularly when it is considered that the "salary-grab law" was repealed during the last session of Congress.

BEN. HILL, of Georgia, recently made a speech in which he declared that that State was unrepresented by a single statesman in Congress. At this, it now appears, ALEX. H. STEPHENS has taken such great umbrage that he has prepared a "very severe reply, which is shortly to be published in a Georgia paper." This, most likely, accounts for the fact that Mr. STEPHENS has left Washington for his home—he desiring to reinforce his rejoinder by the weight of his personal presence. The matter smells somewhat of gunpowder, but in any event the ex-V. P. of the ex-S. C. will be safe enough. HILL is by no means a man of mental mould, and even if he were, he might as well attempt to make a target of a knife-blade placed edgewise, as of the body of Mr. STEPHENS.

COMMUNITIES which countenance Ku-Kluxism and lawlessness cannot, of course, be expected to furnish juries who will make any reparation to the orphans and widows of the slain. Some two years ago a prominent citizen of Kentucky, who was a Democratic candidate for Sheriff, coolly shot a well-known Republican, on the groundless charge that he had circulated reports to his discredit. His six infant children instituted suit for reparation in damages. After many delays the case was at last brought to trial, and the jury returned a verdict for the enormous sum of fifty-five dollars and fifty-five cents. Every member of the jury was an uncontaminated Democrat. It was a test case of the value of a Republican's life to his family as estimated by Kentucky Bourbons. And yet that State invites immigration.

WHEN ADAM delve, and EVE span, who was then the gentleman? One of the brothers of the Marquis of LORNE, who married the Princess LOUISE, a daughter of the Queen of England, is about to take unto himself a wife in the person of the daughter of a rich manufacturer, who began life as a workingman, but whose child thus becomes quite closely connected with the royal family of England, and, through them, with the reigning sovereigns of Prussia, Russia and Denmark. Every one of these august personages has consented to the match, and the lovers are correspondingly happy.

"Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith than Norman blood."

But what will the British Mrs. GRUNDY say of it?

THE latest intelligence concerning the General Transatlantic Company's steamship, L'Amerique, will not be likely to prove very comforting to the *amour propre* of the French people, all the more for the reason that it goes far toward interpreting the recent conduct of the commander of the steamer Europe, of the same line. Both of these vessels were, it is now thoroughly apparent, abandoned by their officers and crews long before there was any necessity for doing so. No one doubts that the French are brave enough, but they are impulsive and panicky. The contrast which the steady, practical pluckiness of the commander and crew of the English steamer Spray presents to the helpless consternation of the French sailors in question, is about as sharp an antithesis as can anywhere be found.

THE LOSS OF THE EUROPE.

A more hopelessly irresolvable muddle resulting from the conflict of statements, has seldom been seen than is presented in the affair of the loss of the steamship Europe. Possibly the case might be easily cleared up in a court of justice, in which the witnesses could be confronted and rigorously cross-examined by men conversant through study and experience with the business. Flatly contradictory narratives and assertions might perhaps thus be made to yield some illumination. In such an examination very important aid in the form of light might be derived from the physiognomy, manner and general bearing of the witnesses. Essential service might also be derived from a knowledge of their antecedents and general reputation for veracity. Certainly from their stories and declarations as they appear in the uniformity of print, without note or comment or other subsidiary aid to interpretation, it is simply impossible for the reader to pass a confident judgment upon the "quarrel" between the officers of the Europe and those of the Greece. It is, however, clear that the dispute is in part the result of the hostility with which rival steamship lines regard each other, both of them candidates for the public favor and patronage, and each of them eager and ever ready to use incidental circumstances for the injury of the other. And to this cause of dislike and ground for misrepresentation must be added the element of national feeling, the old hatred between Frenchman and Englishman, which is "not dead, but sleepeth," even in the most liberalized classes of the two nations, and which in the less liberalized classes still survives with much of the ancient rancor. We need hardly say that British seamen still regard their French craft brethren with as much contempt as ever, or that the sentiment is cheerfully reciprocated in the form of cordial dislike. So far inland, one may say so much on the subject without indiscretion or danger of offense.

Keeping in mind and making allowance for the aforementioned causes of perturbation in the memories of the principal witnesses, one may probably arrive at a pretty correct judgment concerning some of the matters in controversy. From the statement of Mr. REED, an American passenger on the Europe, and a witness in every way unobjectionable, it appears that Captain LEMAIRE did not display the qualities of mind and character which are reasonably looked for in the incumbent of so responsible position. Suddenly, without any preliminary warning or precaution to prevent a panic, with its terrible consequences on shipboard, the passengers were told that the vessel was in a sinking condition. Even when the Greece had come near and while preparations were making to leave the disabled ship, the language of the officers implied a useless and dangerous degree of alarm, and if a destructive panic did not then take place it was not prevented by the wisdom of the commander. By the needless urgency of the officers the passengers *were* prevented from saving various small articles of valuable property, jewels, watches, etc., which they might as well as not have taken with them. We may add that, when afterwards looked for by officers of the Greece, at the request of the owners, these precious articles had disappeared—that is, if the seekers told the truth.

There seems little if any reason to believe that Captain LEMAIRE or any of his subordinates thought of returning to the leaking ship when they had once left it. The only conceivable excuse for their conduct before leaving it is their declared fear that the vessel could not float more than two or three hours and might go down at any moment. Undoubtedly a competent seaman who hoped, however faintly, to save his ship, would, under the circumstances, after transferring his passengers, have remained on board and requested the captain of the Greece to lie by him for a while. The French captain, with all his officers and crew, took refuge on the Greece, and left his own ship to the mercy of the winds and waves, evidently thinking that he had done all that could be expected of him. It is not easy to read spirits, and it is sometimes very unkind even to make the attempt, but circumstances give plausibility at least to the theory that, on learning the opinion of the engineer and other officers of the Greece that the Europe might possibly be saved, and especially on seeing the vessel boarded by a "salvage crew," Captain LEMAIRIE and his assistants felt wounded beyond quiet endurance in the point of honor. Here were Englishmen audaciously running away with the honor of France, perhaps at the same time making no secret of the amused contempt with which they looked upon the lubberly Frenchmen who had abandoned a fine ship and valuable cargo because they had neither the skill nor the fortitude required in like emergencies. It is hard to disbelieve on his oath an officer who claims to be an honest man. Captain LEMAIRIE may, as he says he did, have made some feeble show of wishing to join the salvage crew in their perilous enterprise, and he may have interpreted the act or word of some English sailor as a violent repulse. The evidence, however, is clearly against these allegations. Besides, it seems that when he had once left his ship it be. came legally the prize of any party who chose to run the risk of an attempt to save it, and that he had no legal right to resume his command.

Though unable to determine at present what proportion of truth enters into the composition of the French captain's story, one needs not conclude that the gallant seaman himself does not fully believe in his own affidavit. No doubt his countrymen also, at least a large majority of them, will accept the statement as a complete vindication of the captain's conduct in abandoning the ship, and also as a sufficient apology for any mistakes in seamanship he may have made on the disastrous voyage. They will perceive at a glance that "English perfidy" was at the bottom of it all, where English avarice was not the enemy with which poor LEMAIRIE had to contend. At any rate, if the average Frenchman should not so view the matter, we may conclude that the average Frenchman has grown in character and sagacity since he used to find in suspected treason a satisfactory explanation of all his calamities.

CONSPIRATORS CONVICTED.

A trial of more than ordinary interest and importance to the general public lately took place before the Court of Quarter Sessions of Crawford county. It was a case of alleged conspiracy, in which the proprietor of a newspaper, Mr. ALLEN, of the Titusville *Courier*, was plaintiff, and the defendants were certain members of the Titusville Printers' Union. Five or six months ago the Union having ordered "a strike against a proposed reduction of wages and against being paid in orders on Titusville merchants," Mr. ALLEN yielded to their demand as to wages, but rejected the other demand, asserting his right to pay his employees as he chose. While the subject was under consideration, a telegram before the Union had received this answer, Mr. ALLEN telegraphed to Pittsburgh for non-Union printers. This dispatch having become known to the Union, its officers issued a circular in which they warned members of the society everywhere not to come to Titusville, and they also appointed a committee whose duty it should be to prevent printers from taking work at the *Courier* office, a duty which the committee fulfilled, to the serious detriment of the proprietor. He therefore prosecuted the printers for conspiracy, but at their first trial the jury were unable to agree. Tried a second time, they have been convicted, and from Judge LOWRIE'S charge, published in the Crawford *Journal*, one derives a sufficiently clear notion of the facts and law upon which the case was decided.

Judge LOWRIE usually, we believe, goes to the foundations of whatever subject, whether metaphysical, theological or legal, he undertakes to investigate, and certainly this charge is no exception to the usage. He regards the case as involving some of the most important principles of man's social and moral nature and as calling for broad and careful consideration. Having indicated malicious intent as an essential element in the crime of conspiracy, and having specified a number of the objects for which men in the same occupation may advantageously and lawfully combine, Judge LOWRIE affirms combinations to raise or depress wages or prices to be dangerous in their tendency, dangerous to those engaged in them because they tend unduly to excite and cultivate the selfish principles of our nature which, like our other principles grow in intensity and force the more they are exercised. The selfishness cultivated by such unions is neither less real nor less mischievous because the members contrive and toil for the exclusive interest of a class. In fact, the interest of the class is merely identified with that of the individual as the interest of the individual is identified with that of the class and is even more exclusive, jealous, suspicious, tyrannical and remorseless in its claims and exactions than naked, self-confessed egotism.

But no synopsis which it is in our power to give would do any measure of justice to Judge LOWRIE'S elaborate and masterly presentation of the dangers and mischiefs of these organizations in which selfishness may be reduced to a system and assiduously cultivated. Of course the Judge speaks only of tendencies and would not wish to be understood as holding that such combinations have not sometimes been so regulated as to answer legitimate and useful purposes. Probably, however, most readers of the charge will be inclined to regard its statements as for the most part true, verified in the working of those labor unions in this country at least, which have become well known to the public. The ascendancy of narrow selfishness in their councils has been so frequently and unmistakably displayed that few who have paid attention to the strikes of the last score of years can hesitate to accept Judge LOWRIE'S analysis as substantially correct.

Taking up the particular "combination" on trial, the Typographical Union, the Judge called particular attention to several articles of its constitution. According to one of them, one object of the association is "the regulation of prices and all other things appertaining to the management of the printing business within its jurisdiction." The power thus claimed is, as the Judge remarked, a power which even the Legislature cannot either give or exercise. The reason is obvious. Such a power cannot be exercised without prejudice to some portion of society, while it would be dangerous to the freedom of all in the conduct of their business. But the society which assumes this power holds its sessions in secret, without the presence of an employer to represent the interest of his class, and may attach any penalty it can enforce to disregard of its resolutions.

Another object of the Union is "the regulation of the apprenticeship system." Hence an employer, under this regulation, is not at liberty to place his own son as an apprentice in his own office, without the consent of the Union. A strike may be the penalty of independence. Says Judge LOWRIE, "no set of men can be allowed to interfere with your lawful plans of life, because they may suppose that they thereby benefit their own."

The habit of the Union in stigmatizing expelled members with odious names, etc., the Judge apparently regards as a feature of an unlawful combination. These and other features of the Union were pointed out as indications of its character and as affording a certain assistance in interpreting the proceedings upon which the charge of conspiracy was founded. The attempt of a single person to injure others in their business is not criminal in the eye of the law, though it may be the cause of a civil action for damages. But any attempt by combined numbers of men to injure the lawful business of any others, with evident malicious intent, is a conspiracy and renders them liable to the penalties of the law. It is, said Judge LOWRIE, the combined intention to injure that colors the act with criminality, and on the evidence presented in the case before him, the Judge thought that the combination to do the act complained of could hardly be doubted. The jury agreed with him, and as already stated, the printers were convicted of the offense with which they were charged. The evidence in its details we need not repeat.

THE FINANCIAL QUESTION.

We like the tone of the President's reply to the New York committee that waited on him to ask him to veto the Financial bill which has lately passed both Houses. We will not stop here to discuss the wisdom of this New York proceeding. Committees do not wait upon the two Houses of Congress and ask *them* not to pass a bill; and as the President is but a co-ordinate branch of the law making power, why should they be permitted to approach *him* on such subjects? He should be left free, we think, to make up his mind on such subjects without dictation or argument from without. But let that go. The President permitted them to speak, and our concern, for the present, is what he allowed them to say.

His answer is not an attempt to reply to their stilted and grandiloquent address; but he pierced the committee to the very marrow of their bones, when he said that they were arguing this question solely from the standpoint of their personal interests, and not from the higher plane of national interest. They made a strong effort in presenting their case, it is true, on general grounds and principles, but under all was plainly perceptible the selfishness they tried so hard to conceal. Boston had been before the President the day before, urging the selfish ideas of Boston and New England, and New York followed only to show the same selfishness and greed, and to ask that the whole nation should be made tributary to New York and Boston, and the finances of the entire country made to conform to the local interests and views of the capitalists of those two cities. The President saw plainly through all this, and was frank enough to say so. *He* wants to act for the best good of the country at large; and just at the moment when his hands ought to be held up in sustaining such a purpose, he finds his ears saluted with the whinings of interested capitalists, who imagine, as the President says, that because *they* want a certain thing, therefore the country at large must want it also. The conclusion they have arrived at does not follow, however, as a matter of course; and although we suspect the efforts of these speculators in money are too thick to feel the barb thrust into them by the President, it is a matter of rejoicing to the country that he has been able to see and expose the purposes of those who are themselves unable to see beyond the limited horizon of Wall street and Milk street.

The idea of the average New England capitalist is that all the money capital of the country should center in and about Boston, and that the South and the West should go there to borrow what they want, bringing first-class mortgages and undoubted securities along as security. Boston would like to hold Indiana, and Illinois, and Missouri, and Michigan, and all the other rich and productive portions of the country under mortgage at 10 per cent.; and as long as the interest is paid regularly, and the Grangers don't meddle with the railroads, the country may be considered prosperous. The duty of the general government, in the eyes of this class is to legislate solely with a view to the perpetuation of this happy state of things. The bonds of the United States, next to Western mortgages, are a favorite investment with these men, and hence their hostility to the policy of the administration in paying off the national debt. It interferes with their investments. In their eagerness to keep this national debt permanent, as a safe means of absorbing their surplus cash, they forget that reduction of the debt was a part of the President's policy, and they unwittingly trod on his corns in opposing it.

The idea of the New York capitalist is that all the money of the nation should center in New York city. All national banks should be compelled to redeem their notes in that city, and keep all their reserve in its national banks. If the South wants money to move the cotton crop, or the West to move the grain and provisions product, let them come to New York and get it at whatever rates her bankers choose to ask; or if money is wanted for any purpose, let New York be the sole municipality supplying it. The interests of other sections are nothing to your New York man. His city, he says, is the metropolis, and thither every man must go for what he wants. Congress must legislate, not for the nation, but for New York. What that city wants the country must want; and every man who is not willing to concentrate everything for the benefit of New York, is corrupt and imbecile. There is but one god, Money, and New York is its prophet. If the President will only veto the Financial bill, he will be the very embodiment of Roman virtue, and there will be hope for the future; but if he signs it, then corruption will stalk abroad, and chaos will come again. That is the New York view, as presented in the vague generalities of the address of its committee to the President.

It is something to be able to congratulate ourselves that the President has been able to see through all this narrow and exclusive provincialism and local selfishness. The bane of this entire financial discussion, from its beginning to its end, has been the attempt to bend the legislation of the country solely to the promotion of local interests. The West and South have been as provincial and selfish as New York and Boston, but have had a wider field and more varied interests to represent. The bill before the President is not, we know, the perfection of wisdom; but it is probably the best that can be got at present, and the fact that it excites the fears of the centralizing money rings of New York and New England, proves that they think its tendency will be to break up their financial supremacy. If it should accomplish that end, and lead to a wider distribution of capital over the country, we shall hail its approval by the President as a public blessing. We do not wonder at the restiveness of the South and West under their tributary financial condition; and we hope the valuations of the New York men, as to the effect of the bill in taking the money supremacy from them are well founded and will be realized.

VACCINATION AMONG THE STATESMEN.

A characteristic and very instructive debate lately took place in the German Reichstag on the subject of vaccination. Though purely a question of public health, as it might seem, the discussion of it assumed a much wider range, and became the occasion of a regular partisan conflict between the champions of antagonistic views concerning the true position or functions of the imperial government. The imperial government proposes, it appears, to establish a Bureau or, as we say, a Department of Hygiene, the chief of which, we may suppose, would be an eminent physician legally authorized to exercise direction and control in all matters pertaining to the general health, the medical profession included. A project of law establishing such a bureau has been approved by the imperial council, and a proposition for the regulation of vaccination, also approved by the council and submitted by the government, seems to have been seized upon by the centralists in the Reichstag as affording a good opportunity for the applications of their political principles. A committee of the Reichstag so altered the bill laid before that body as to make the subject of vaccination an imperial concern, instead of leaving it to the governments of the separate States. By the bill vaccination is made compulsory, and very minute directions are prescribed as to the age at which the operation must be performed and as to the conditions under which it must be repeated. While the State governments are required to make arrangements for providing the necessary lymph and for the carrying out of the law, the imperial government maintains a close supervision over the whole business. No doubt this will be the duty of the Medical or Hygiene Bureau.

This project of law met with the most earnest and even vehement opposition from all divisions of the antagonists of centralization in the Reichstag. The feature of compulsion was looked upon as especially odious, and a counter project was proposed in which it was provided that children should not be vaccinated before their fifth year, and then only with the approval of parents or guardians, and that adults should not be subjected to the operation without their own consent. This form of law was supported by numerous petitions, strongly protesting against compulsory vaccination, and in these petitions, according to a German authority, the sentiment of no insignificant portion of the people found expression. In the Reichstag it was urged that even physicians are much divided in opinion as to the effectiveness of vaccination in preventing small-pox. It seems that while some German physicians regard it as indispensable to the public health, others regard it as dangerous, and especially as a means by which the seeds of other diseases are introduced into the system. Medical members of the Reichstag boldly asserted that since the introduction of vaccination, nervous diseases have multiplied, and that in vaccinated persons several maladies take on a more dangerous type. However, medical advocates of the remedy had decidedly the better of the argument, the statistics of Wurtemberg, for example, showing that while the law compelling vaccination in that kingdom was strictly enforced, small-pox was almost unknown, whereas in consequence of the neglect of the law, the disease had vastly increased.

We may add that British statistics furnish overwhelming evidence to the same effect. Indeed, the general efficacy of the preventive has been so completely established in some other countries that the scepticism of some members of the Reichstag is rather surprising. Possibly prejudice has somewhat to do with it. But a more respectable influence was no doubt active, namely, the growing spirit of personal independence and opposition to the extension of imperial power. The execution of the proposed law would involve a degree of official intrusion into private affairs, an intermeddling with the domestic relations of the subject, which an increasing number of Germans regard with impatience. An opponent of the law urged with considerable force that, if it were adopted, common fairness demanded that all the great people, from the Emperor and the confederate princes down to the members of the imperial council and of the government should submit to the operation in order to satisfy the people that vaccination is a good thing. Another fairly hit a blot when he objected to a law which compelled a poor laborer and his children to endure a process offensive to their feelings, from which a rich man could obtain exemption by the payment of money.

But the objections, good, bad and indifferent urged against the law failed to convince its supporters. To it was appended a resolution sanctioning or recommending the establishment of the proposed Imperial Bureau of Hygiene, as an agency for the administration of the law, and both this resolution and the proposition in favor of compulsory vaccination were passed by the Reichstag, against the united opposition of Social Democrats, Ultramontanes, Radicals, Poles and deputies from Elsass-Lothringen. Doubtless the Department of Health thus approved will be promptly organized by the government, and the world may reasonably watch the experiment with some interest and curiosity.

A LIVELY DEBATE.

According to a Vienna dispatch in our issue of Tuesday, when the upper House of the Austrian Reichsrath had passed the Ecclesiastical bills, the Bishops withdrew in a body. The passage of these laws has from the first been anticipated by the clerical party as a foregone conclusion, and, as regards the abrogation of the concordat they have taken the ground that, as it is an international contract, Austria, one of the parties to it, can not legally abolish it without the consent of the other party, namely Rome. The clericals, therefore, declared that the proposed laws, being in violation of the stipulations of the concordat, would be null and void, even if adopted by the Reichsrath, and would be treated by them as null and void. No doubt, the withdrawal of the Bishops is to be understood as a step taken in accordance with this view of the subject, and as the beginning of practical resistance on the part of the Church to the execution of the obnoxious bills. It is therefore possible that the world may before long hear of the imprisonment of Bishops and other indications of a struggle between Church and State in Austria, similar to the struggle for some time going on in Prussia. It is, however, also possible that, on the adoption of the new laws by the entire Reichsrath, His Holiness may intervene in the interest of peace, enjoining at least temporary submission on the part of his subordinates. The Royal House of Austria not being Protestants, but true children of the Church, makes a great difference, possibly holding out the prospect of ultimate reconciliation.

Such prospect, however, is at present exceedingly dark. During the last ten years the Liberal or anti-clerical party has been growing steadily and rapidly in numbers and, having succeeded in establishing constitutional rights, the party has directed all its energies towards the subordination of the Church to the power of the State. To deprive the clergy of their control over education, to secularize marriage, and to make the clergy amenable to the jurisdiction of the civil courts, these ends have been the great aims of the party, and they command a degree of popular sympathy and support which is only in part a measure of the reaction against the effects of the concordat. It ought to be understood that the men who fight this battle on the side of civil rights are neither infidels in religion nor radicals in politics. They are largely sincere Catholics, and the measures proposed by them fall far short of the desires of the extreme enemies of the Church.

The late debates in the Reichsrath on the subject of Church and State appear to have been of the most exciting character. Indeed, it seems to be agreed on all hands that in plainness of speech, as well as in animation of manner, these discussions were a novelty in the Austrian Parliament. This statement one can easily believe after reading an account of one session given by a correspondent of a Berlin journal. A clerical member, Herr WURM, having warned his fellow legislators to be on their guard against the "fables which the innovators were trying to palm off as history" and against "the scientific charlatanism which falsifies and distorts the best established facts," Herr HEILSBERG, a Liberal, stated that in 1848 the Pope had given his particular blessing to the Italian troops which were sent forth to fight the Austrians. He also reminded his hearers that a portion of those troops were honored and sanctified with the title of "Crusaders," soldiers of the cross. "An indescribable tumult" was excited by these statements, the deputies wearing ecclesiastical garments springing to their feet and smiting their desks in protestation. The President having commanded order, a deputy named GIOVANELLI arose and said, "We will not let our Holy Father the Pope be insulted here, and if the President does not do his duty, we—," whereupon the President interrupting GIOVANELLI quietly said: "It would be difficult to deny the fact mentioned by the orator, as it is still well remembered by all who remember those days;" and then Herr HEILSBERG was allowed to go on with his speech. In the course of the debate, the clerical deputies repeatedly and emphatically said, "You may enact these laws, but we will never obey them;" to which declarations Prince AUERSPERG, President of the Council of Ministers, replied once for all, "You may refuse to obey the laws, but the government will know how to compel you."

An interesting episode in the Austrian conflict is the late attempt to expel the Jesuits. Great numbers of the order driven from Germany have found refuge in the Austrian empire, especially in the Tyrol. Through a technical defect in the bill offered for their expulsion in the Reichsrath, it failed to pass. This, however, is but a temporary check, and when the question again comes before Parliament, it is thought certain that the zealous Fathers will be compelled to leave Austria.

ECCLESIASTICAL CONSERVATISM.

Misapprehension exists in some quarters concerning the action of the Presbytery of Brooklyn in the case of Miss SMILEY, the preacher. Fairly understood, the proceedings of the Presbytery seem to evince neither inconsistency nor a spirit of persecution. Persons who happen to be aware of the grounds upon which ministers of the Presbyterian Church, and indeed, as we believe, of all the old historical churches, disapprove of female preaching in their pulpits, can hardly help perceiving that the Brooklyn Presbytery as a whole could never have wavered or hesitated in its judgment of the case. An individual here and there, a clergyman of gushing constitution and overflowing sympathies; like Dr. CUYLER, touched by the charm of Miss SMILEY'S voice and manner, or satisfied of the reality of her call to preach by the effect of her discourse, might forget or think it right to ignore the principles and order of his church so far as to invite the lady into his pulpit. Such an example of irregularity having been once set, it could hardly fail to meet with more or less approval on the part of two or three men in a body of twenty or thirty members. In every score or thirty men there are usually two or three who cannot withhold their sympathy from transgression of rule simply because it is transgression. It should seem that even sound divines sometimes, compelled to respect the moral law, find a certain compensatory satisfaction in violating the laws of their church, and if the particular ecclesiastical power to which the offense chiefly holds out the prospect of instantaneous popularity, the temptation is the more irresistible. But such cases are exceptional, and as to the Brooklyn Presbytery, its members are bound by rules and precedents which left them no discretion in the settlement of the question which Dr. CUYLER'S action brought before them. And in the light of the facts it is equally clear that, instead of displaying a narrow or persecuting spirit in their proceedings in the case, they showed a quite admirable tenderness and forbearance. They postponed decisive action as long as possible, and at last took decisive action only when a repetition of the offense had made it unavoidable, essential to the preservation of their church order and to the maintenance of their own professional self-respect.

It may be that there is a considerable portion of the public who feel little if any interest in the action of the Brooklyn Presbytery, or in the proceedings of any other ecclesiastical court. Persons not deficient in general knowledge expressed wonder at the attention given by many newspapers to the council of the Congregational churches which lately met to deliberate on the Plymouth church case. Perhaps, however, there are few subjects of which the newspapers take note more worthy of general attention than the church courts, as the churches are not less important elements in our social and political life, because they have no connection with the State. In fact they are, as Mr. WEBSTER often said, powerfully conservative agencies, and as such are no doubt, destined to perform an increasingly influential part in our national history. While the established churches of other countries seem to be every day losing influence, and in most instances furnishing occasions for bitter and determined assaults upon the religion they represent, the purely voluntary churches of this country are evidently gaining strength. While the former are distracted by divisions of opinion on the subject of doctrines, by positive heresies, the latter are for the most part free from any such trouble, or where trouble of the kind exists, not rationalism or infidelity but excess in the opposite direction is the cause.

The conservative effect of the late action of the Brooklyn Presbytery may reasonably be regarded as of some importance. Though relatively few American women really desire to enter the "professions," or would enter them if all obstructions, sentimental and actual, were withdrawn, the exceptions to this rule of indifference are very zealous and very ingenious in combating the venerable theories of life and society which assign to women a "sphere" of their own, distinct and sacred. They are rapidly making converts who would be willing to have the experiment tried, and upon the mere grounds of reason it may not be easy to meet the arguments of the innovators. And yet the revolution proposed would involve consequences of tremendous import, as every thoughtful inquirer can perceive. If the revolution is to come, certainly it should be made to come slowly, and it is, therefore, well for the world that there are extensive and powerful organizations hostile to change on the ground of religious doctrine, and able to resist it on inspired authority.

THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATORIAL FIGHT.

During the progress of the Senatorial struggle in Massachusetts it did not seem proper to indulge in any personal comments on the candidates; but now that it is over, we cannot conceal a feeling approaching to delight over the defeat of DAWES. That gentleman has attained to a factitious reputation as the friend of economy in national expenditures; but he has never been able to conceal the fact that he is much more of a demagogue than a statesman. He never had the pluck to take his stand openly on the side of BEN. BUTLER, yet has always been either known as, or suspected of being his ally and friend. Like all other demagogues, he is an arrant coward, and never strikes at a man except when he thinks he is down. Then he is merciless. He plays the role of economist because he thinks that the popular thing to do; but his economy consists more of stinginess than of legitimate saving. Massachusetts has too many men who are really great, to be represented in the Senate by such third-rate men as DAWES, and it is to her honor that she has fished Gov. WASHBURNE out of the pool in preference to the little minnows who have so long been nibbling at the bait.

A great deal of fault has been found with the Republicans of the Massachusetts Legislature for the long delay caused by this struggle; but we think they acted wisely. A party caucus at the outset would have been unable to settle anything decisively or satisfactorily; and the only safe plan, that was open, has been followed. It annoys an impatient public to be kept in suspense; but men cannot be made to agree, to order, and where preferences differ so widely as in this case, time is the only arbiter for settling these differences to general approval.

WHEN Bishop BERKELEY wrote the little poem in which he said

"Westward the star of empire takes its way,"

he was anticipating the rise of a great national power on the Western Continent, and may or may not have reflected at the moment that in the old World also his statement has been historically verified. A late German contemporary affirms it to be in some sort a law of nature without exception, that the wanderings of tribes and peoples have always tended from east to west. Such was the migration of the Arians in prehistorical times, and again such was the migration of the barbarians who overran the Roman empire in the earlier centuries of the Christian era. Then came the peopling of America from Europe: and throughout the entire period of American history, the tide of population has steadily flowed from the Atlantic towards the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific. Our contemporary goes still further in the application of the law, and asserts that in the great cities of the civilized world the western portion of the city is always the seat of riches, luxury and fashion. So it is in London, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Washington, St. Louis, and in hundreds of other cities that might be mentioned. Statistics are also quoted to in confirmation of the law that culture always advances from the rising towards the setting sun, but we cannot just now reproduce the facts for want of time. It is further affirmed that all infectious diseases, all widely prevailing epidemics, such as cholera, the black death plague, small-pox, etc., have exemplified the same law. Beginning in the east, each of them has spread with more or less rapidity westward until, some of them at least, have made the circuit of the world in that direction.

On the other hand, we are assured that the flight of spirit is in the opposite direction; in other words, that new thoughts, ideas and theories of a nature to turn the world upside down, or to revolutionize society, have all traveled from the west towards the east. So it was with Christianity. The facts on which it rests took place in the east, but its doctrines were first developed and applied in the west and were then proclaimed in the east. France, Germany, and the lands of the Slavi were all christianized by Western missionaries, men of Irish or English birth. But the most startling part of the speculation is that spiritual epidemics all travel from west to east. Thus the crusades, the persecutions of the Jews in the middle ages, the rage against witches in the 16th and 17th centuries, the political revolutions of the 18th and 19th centuries, all these agitations, spiritual maladies, began in the west and traveled to the east. And in our own time, who can deny that table-turning, spirit-rapping, etc., originated in America and have gone eastward to Europe and farther; and still another illustration our contemporary finds in the praying crusades.

HAVING been frequently solicited of late to become a candidate for Congress, Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX has addressed a letter to his friends, in which he declines positively to allow the use of his name. In this letter Mr. COLFAX says:

"There is no office that I would prefer to that of Representative of the old constituency by which I was eight times unanimously nominated for Congress, and always so generously and cordially supported. While I live I shall never forget that long-continued confidence and esteem which I so highly prized, and of which I so earnestly strove to be worthy. But after belonging to the public for twenty years, I belong also to my family, who cannot consent that this ownership shall be changed. I have found, too, that the truest happiness in life is in being out of office, and master of one's own time and movements. And, therefore, no possible inducement nor contingency, that I can either imagine or foresee, could bring me to desire a return to Congressional life with what are so well-known to be its cares and toils, its injustice and falsifications, its envyings and all uncharitableness. I hope my constituents must pardon me for insisting that in their future Congressional canvasses I must be counted only as a voter, and under no circumstances as a candidate. If public life can be ranked as a duty not to be evaded, I certainly have performed a full share of that duty. If, however, as is generally considered, it is regarded as a pleasure, I certainly had of that pleasure more than any one citizen had a right to claim or expect."

UNDER the laws of the United States, cigar, tobacco, beer and spirit dealers, wholesale and retail, as well as brewers and rectifiers, must pay tax to the government through the Internal Revenue collectors of their respective districts. The year begins on the first of May. Hitherto the tax has been due on or before the 31st of that month. But by a new interpretation of the law, and instructions to collectors in accordance therewith, the tax must be paid on or before the year commences, which, as we have said, is the first of May. All parties in business in these lines, therefore, who do not pay on or before that date, will be mulcted in fifty per cent. penalty, which in most cases will be a severe burden, as the tax ranges from five dollars to two hundred dollars, according to business. The collectors have no option in this matter, but are obliged to enforce the collection of the penalty with the tax. The press would do well to invite general attention to this matter, to the end that everybody concerned may have ample notification of the consequences of neglecting to pay in advance.

THE lessons of our war seem to have sunk deeper into the minds of European tacticians than all the blood and thunder of the Franco-Prussian struggle. Colonel CHESNEY, an eminent English officer, has just delivered a lecture in which he advocated the superiority of a small body of highly-trained soldiers, armed with light rifles well cut loose and on horseback, acquainted with the elements of engineering and artillery. With 30,000 such troops he declared that he could at any moment push across Europe and paralyze the action of 300,000 of the ordinary type. His ideal army is evidently the same as General SHERIDAN'S. There is no doubt that if national prejudice could be overcome, and the stigma removed from innovation, an enormous boon would be conferred upon suffering nations by the substitution of a small army of *elite* for the cumbersome forces which now drain town and country of the best of their youth, and send them home unable or unwilling to settle to fixed and profitable employment.

THE dates at which the Republican nominating conventions have been held, in Allegheny county, for the past nine years, are as follows: 1865, June 6th; 1866, May 29th; 1867, September 3d; 1868, June 24; 1869, June 1st; 1870, August 31st; 1871, June 6th; 1872, June 28th; 1873, June 3d. It will thus be seen that, during the period stated, there has been but one convention held earlier than June, and that was only a few days in advance of the usual time, which has been about the first week in June. When there are good reasons shown for postponing the nominations to a later day, such as exist now, the conventions have been held as late as September. This year the election takes place in November, or one month later than under the old Constitution; so that, even if the party custom is to be followed, without regard to party interests, the conventions should not be called earlier than the middle of July. The first week in September would be early enough, and would give a campaign of fully two months.

MRS. YOUNG, one of the numerous wives of the prophet BRIGHAM, who is lecturing about the country on some of the peculiar institutions and practices of the Mormons, delivered an address in Washington City, a few evenings ago, to an audience composed largely of members of Congress and their families. The pith of the lecture was contained in its opening words. She said